

## Arafat meets Lebanese envoy

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and a Lebanese politician had three hours of talks Monday on the future of Palestinians in Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency Wafa said. The atmosphere was positive, Mohsen Ibrahim, leader of the Lebanese Communist Action Organisation and an old friend of Mr. Arafat, has been asked by the Lebanese government to start a dialogue with the PLO on disarming Palestinians. The Lebanese government has demanded all armed groups lay down their weapons by the end of this month to allow the Lebanese army and police to take control of the whole country. Palestinian leaders have refused to do so, saying they are under threat from Israel. Wafa said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Ibrahim discussed attempts to bring about internal détente between Lebanese factions and all aspects of the Palestinian presence. "The talks took place in a positive atmosphere, which contributed towards building a new relationship between Lebanon and the PLO and to defining the rights of and guarantees for...the Palestinian population," it added. The agency did not say if they reached any decisions or if they would meet again.

# Jordan Times

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## Iraq denounces U.S., Britain

NICOSIA (R) — Baghdad has denounced U.S. and British aid drops of supplies to Kurdish refugees inside northern Iraq as a violation of its sovereignty, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Monday. It said Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer had sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, protesting that the relief operation "proves the evil intentions harboured by the U.S. and Britain towards Iraq." "The Iraqi people have suffered enough as a result of the barbaric destruction of their public utilities by the U.S. troops and their allies," the agency quoted the letter as saying. "What these people need now is an immediate lifting of the economic blockade imposed on them, rather than the dropping of bits of food and blankets in a pretentious operation which has no humanitarian aspects whatsoever. Iraq strongly protests against the U.S. and British conduct because it infringes on Iraq's sovereignty...and is a direct interference in Iraq's internal affairs." The letter said if the donors were sincere they would have sent the aid directly to Iraq or via Jordan and Turkey.

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## Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed from Monday, April 15, to Friday, April 19, in observance of Eid Al Fitr, according to an official communique issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday.

## Iraq to start rationing paraffin

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq, its oil refineries largely destroyed by the Gulf war, said Monday it would start rationing paraffin, used for heating and lighting. Baghdad Radio quoted an Oil Ministry statement as saying rationing would "ensure that every family gets its allocated share and to avoid the negative aspects in the present distribution system." Paraffin sales would be stopped from Tuesday until the rationing system was in place "at an early date," said the radio. Western officials have said some 80 per cent of Iraq's refining capacity of around 500,000 barrels per day was destroyed in the six-week war.

## Israeli colonel convicted of brutality

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Tel Aviv military court Monday convicted an army colonel of ordering brutal beatings of Arab detainees in the early months of the Palestinian uprising. Colonel Yehuda Meir was one of the highest ranking officers to be convicted during the 40-month uprising. The military court, headed by Col. Nili Peled, said Col. Meir's order to his troops to break the arms and legs of detainees had violated army policy, Israeli radio said. A hearing on sentencing was scheduled for April 23, the army spokesman's office said.

## Pakistan begins Afghan initiative

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan will try to win international agreement on how to end 12 years of war in Afghanistan, a senior Pakistani official said Monday. High on its list of contacts is the Soviet Union, the main supporter of the Afghan government that Pakistan-backed guerrillas have sworn to overthrow. Mohammad Shahyar Khan, deputy head of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, emphasised to reporters the importance of contacts with Moscow as well as the United States, Saudi Arabia and Iran — the other main foreign players in the conflict.

## Algeria lifts ban on theologians

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has lifted a 30-year-old ban on the country's association of Muslim theologians as part of a campaign to weaken the influence of more radical Islam. The Interior Ministry statement unbanning the association, which flourished during the French colonial era, was greeted by its backers who quickly announced plans to revive its suspended newspaper and reopen branches throughout the country. Political sources in Algeria said that after taking control of mosques by banning electioneering inside them, the government appeared determined to counter the influence of Muslim fundamentalists.

## Israeli court asked to extradite U.S. couple

TEL AVIV (AP) — The justice ministry asked a court Monday to allow the extradition of an American immigrant couple suspected of involvement in a 1980 murder in California. The court delayed hearings on the request for at least 30 days to allow attorneys to prepare a defence for the suspects, Rachel and Reuven Manning, a ministry spokesman said. The couple immigrated to Israel from the United States about 10 years ago and Hebraized their names from Rochelle and Robert.

# Iraq accuses Iran of trying to occupy Kut

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Baghdad accused Tehran Monday of trying to occupy a southern Iraqi town and of sending troops to help fellow Shiite Muslims fight the government of President Saddam Hussein.

Baghdad has repeatedly charged its former foe, Tehran, of sending infiltrators to help the post-Gulf war rebellion which Iraq says it has crushed, but it was the first time Iran was accused of having territorial ambitions in Iraq.

"Iraqi authorities are in possession of information about Iran's intention to occupy the city of Kut and to cut the Baghdad-Kut-Basra road by sending elements from the 9th mechanised Badr Division and the 11th Amir Al Muminin division," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) Monday quoted a message sent to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar as saying.

Kut is about 50 kilometres west of the Iranian border and is midway between Iraq's two biggest cities of Baghdad and Basra.

INA said the message was handed to Mr. Perez de Cuellar by Iraq's U.N. Representative Abdul Amir Al Anbari Sunday.

It included "new evidence of serious Iranian violation of the ceasefire agreement between Iraq and Iran (following their eight-year war) and Iran's blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs," INA said.

Tehran has denied helping the rebels but Iran's supreme spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged the Iraqi people last Friday to press on with their rebellion.

"Documents confirming the participation of members of the (late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini's guard in an attack on Iraqi forces in Diyala governorate had been found on the bodies of Iranians killed in the attack," INA said.

It said Iraqi government troops captured 56 Iranians who infiltrated Diyala, northwest of Baghdad, with rocket launchers and Iranian-manufactured equipment.

"Iraq has evidence that an armed group from (Iran's) 9th Badr Division and Amara to stage demonstrations and instigate riots in these cities," the message said. Iraq said the occupation of Kut was among the Iranians' objectives.

Iran said nearly 700,000 Iraqi refugees have reached its northern and southern borders by Sunday evening. Queues of would-be arrivals stretched for miles, Tehran Radio added.

Iran said later Monday, it had reopened its borders to Iraqi refugees.

"The pace of arrivals into the country has quickened since last night," Vahid Dastjerdi, head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, said on Tehran Radio.

Mr. Dastjerdi said international aid was vital in helping Iran to prevent an outbreak of epidemics among the refugees.

The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, the main Iraq-based Iranian rebel group, has accused Tehran of sending Revolutionary Guards into Iraq to attack Mujahedeen bases.

In a statement to the Jordan Times Monday, the Mujahedeen

said Kurdish rebels fighting the Iraqi government had captured several Mujahedeen fighters and turned them over to the Iranian guards. It said Mujahedeen fighters were found "executed" by either the Kurdish rebel group led by Jalal Talabani of Iranian guards.

It identified the fighters and said two fighters were in the custody of Iranian guards.

The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, the Iraq-based main Iranian rebel group, has accused Iran of sending troops into Iraq to attack Mujahedeen bases.

The bodies of 16 Mujahedeen combatants (killed in a battle with Iranian troops) have been located near the town of Kelar by several investigative teams of the National Liberation Army of Iran," the Mujahedeen said in a statement sent to the Jordan Times.

The Mujahedeen called on the International Committee of the Red Cross to officially intervene to save the lives of two captive Mujahedeen, according to the statement.

"It is clear that Jalal Talabani's claims in recent weeks, which were blatant lies, of the Mujahedeen's interference in the fighting in the city of Kirkuk were only to justify committing such crimes in collaboration "with the Iranian guards," the statement said.

The United States and its allies want to preserve the political status quo in Iraq. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, a pro-Iranian Lebanese fundamentalist leader, said in an

(Continued on page 2)

# Allied planes drop supplies to refugees in northern Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

BRITAIN BEGAN airdropping supplies to Iraqis on the Turkish border Monday as European countries joined a U.S. emergency relief programme for hundreds of thousands of hungry, rain-soaked refugees, officials said.

France was also scheduled to begin airdropping packages of flour, sugar, salt and other staples to the refugees.

U.S. planes began a second day of airdrops on Monday. Four U.S. C-130 cargo planes parachuted about 23,000 kilograms of field rations known as meals ready to eat on the border area, said Colonel Don Kirchoffner, a spokesman for the joint task force "Provide Comfort."

The relief effort gathered force as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was visiting Turkey to demonstrate American concern for the refugees. He flew to the border area Monday to visit a refugee camp.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, many of them Kurds, have fled to Turkey and Iran in a desperate effort to avoid violence related to the ill-fated Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq.

Most arrived on foot after arduous hikes through the mountains, suffering from hunger, cold and steady rain.

About 20 people a day, mostly children, are dying of disease along the border, the Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet reported Monday, quoting two Iraqi doctors helping Turkish officials treat refugees.

"If immediate measures are not taken, there will be epidemics, and many people will die," it quoted Iraqi doctors Muretin Abdullah and Berfin Naci as saying.

The daily Tercumen reported Monday that the number of refugees who died on the way to Turkey increased to 2,000. Turkish officials said last weekend that about 1,500 had perished of

hunger, exposure and wounds en route to the border.

Turkey has allowed refugees to cross the border in recent days, after initially refusing them entrance. But two confrontations were reported involving Turkish security forces trying to restrain masses of refugees.

On Sunday, troops fired on refugees trying to enter near the border town of Uludere, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. One person was killed, according to the Istanbul daily Milliyet.

Milliyet said another clash occurred Sunday at the Turkish village of Yemikli, and five refugees were killed. The reports could not immediately be confirmed, and few details were available.

Meanwhile, thousands of Turkish Kurds staged demonstrations Sunday in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir in support of their

(Continued on page 2)

# 600 soldiers, civilians face Kuwait war crimes trials

KUWAIT (R) — More than 600 Iraqi soldiers and others, accused of war crimes during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, will stand trial in the next few weeks and some could face the death penalty, officials said Monday.

Charges included murder, torture, espionage, treason and terrorist operations, he said.

Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil, Kuwait's under-secretary for justice and legal affairs, told a news conference that 628 people were under arrest in the emirate.

"They are being investigated and in a couple of weeks they will be sent to court for trial," he said.

The 628 people in detention include high-ranking Iraqi officers, but the vast majority are believed to be Palestinians suspected of collaborating. Mr. Dakhil said he had no breakdown on the detainees' nationalities.

Three civilian judges and two military officers will preside over the cases, and a simple majority is required for conviction, Mr.

Dakhil said. The government will seek the death penalty for serious offenses, he added.

Defendants are entitled to a lawyer, but a decision on whether the trials will be open to the public rests with the judges, Mr. Dakhil told the news conference. The accused will be tried individually, he said.

Kuwait's large Palestinian community feels it has been unfairly singled out for revenge attacks because some Palestinians collaborated with the Iraqis. There have been dozens of unsolved killings since liberation, and many victims have been Palestinians.

The U.S. embassy and human rights groups have raised concerns about beatings of Palestinians detained by vigilantes and rogue elements of the Kuwaiti security forces.

Mr. Dakhil said he knew of no Kuwaitis facing charges for attacks on Palestinians.

A Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) faction said Monday that Palestinians were being persecuted in Kuwait and appealed for Arab and international help.

"Thousands of Palestinian nationals are still being detained, subject to all forms of insults and torture," the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia.

"Information received also confirm that a number of Palestinians were killed at the hands of armed Kuwaiti groups, some members of the (Al Sabah) ruling family and other semi-official circles," the statement said.

"We call on the (U.N.) Security Council and the Arab League to hold immediate meetings to discuss these practices which have taken a dangerous systematic form, threatening the future of the Palestinian people in that country."

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## Jordan criticises ceasefire resolution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Monday criticised as harsh U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 which imposed on Iraq tough terms in return for a formal ceasefire in the Gulf war.

"It is a harsh resolution that will put lots of burdens on Iraq for many years to come," Mr. Masri told reporters.

"In our evaluation, it would have been possible to reduce the burdens shouldered by the Iraqi people, who are suffering from the total destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and are looking forward to a hasty reconstruction," he said. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, took a tougher stand, branding the United Nations a tool of American policy (see story on page 3).

Iraq said Sunday it had no choice but to accept the resolution terms which strip it of chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction.

The resolution also demands Baghdad channel part of its oil revenues into a fund to pay reparations to Kuwait.

# Masri-Baker meeting could result in better ties

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American-Jordanian relations could witness further improvement with the planned meeting in Geneva later this week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri. The meeting is also expected to give Jordan and the U.S. an opportunity to exchange views on latest efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

"The Geneva meeting is aimed at increasing the level of bilateral contacts hampered in recent months," Mr. Masri said Monday in an obvious reference to the strain in relations caused by the Gulf crisis and the war that followed.

"The meeting also constitutes an effort on the part of the U.S. to help solve the problems of the region," Mr. Masri said in a statement given to Radio Jordan and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "Jordan has an important part to play in any effort to solve the problems of the region," he added.

The foreign minister also expressed hope that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem would be addressed

sed "on the basis of international legitimacy in the same spirit and manner as the Gulf crisis."

President George Bush reaffirmed Jordan's key role in any Middle East peace settlement in remarks to the press Saturday, and he indicated that Washington felt that the time was opportune for intensifying the pursuit for peace in the Middle East and that was the reason he was sending Mr. Baker on a new Middle East mission.

The U.S. administration is pursuing a double-track approach to peace in the Middle East: One track leading towards resolving Israel's conflict with individual Arab states and the other towards settling the Palestinian problem.

According to highly placed sources, Jordan, which has consistently called for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved, feels that the American approach can be considered positive if it leads to results and if it deals with the Palestinian problem it is fully backed by the Europeans.

Jordan's positive approach to the American double-track strategy was further boosted with definite signals from Syria

that Damascus was not willing to accept an American-brokered deal over the Golan Heights, away from the Palestinian problem.

Consequently, Jordan might be ready to wait on the idea of an international conference for the time being, pending careful preparations for the holding of such parity.

In a general perspective, Jordan believes that there has to be an international conference at a later point to finalise and endorse the agreements reached among the various parties.

"What is needed now is quiet diplomacy and dialogue towards basic agreement on how to resolve the various problems and address the various dimensions of the conflict," said a senior official.

There is little doubt that Jordan remains highly hopeful that the Geneva meeting could be a forerunner for a process which would ultimately lead to an international peace conference.

"It was the American side which suggested the meeting between Mr. Baker and Mr. Masri, and we are going to Geneva willing to listen to all constructive ideas for better

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# Baker arrives in Israel, seen likely to get evasive answers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived Monday for a second round of talks with Israeli leaders and Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Mr. Baker landed at Ben Gurion airport at about 8:10 p.m. local time (1710 GMT). He was met



## Palestinians to meet Baker today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Palestinians, striving to ensure a place in Middle East peace efforts, are trying to mend fences with Washington during a crucial visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker starting Monday.

Nationalists in the Israeli-occupied territories who refused to meet U.S. officials before the Gulf war have been holding regular contacts with them since Washington revived regional peace efforts a month ago.

Palestinian leaders said leaders from the West Bank, Arab Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip would meet Mr. Baker at his invitation on Tuesday during his second peace mission in a month.

"I believe it is going to be an important meeting because we expect to hear from Washington its ideas on peace efforts," said Hanna Siniora, editor of Arab Jerusalem's Al Fajr newspaper, which supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Ten Palestinians, headed by prominent pro-PLO figure Faisal Al Hussein, met Mr. Baker March 12. Some members of that delegation have met U.S. officials several times in occupied Jerusalem and Washington since then.

Mr. Siniora said he was eager to hear Washington's views on a possible Arab-Israeli regional conference and on the Palestinian role in future peace-making.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said he would consider attending such a conference with Arab states and Palestinians as an opening to direct talks with both.

Washington favours the participation of Palestinians from the occupied territories in a delegation with Jordan to peace talks hosted by the United States and the Soviet Union.

"The Americans would prefer Palestinian negotiators from the occupied territories who are supported by the PLO but not PLO members," said Hanan Mikhael-Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian who met Mr. Baker's aides and other officials in Washington in March on directions from the PLO.

Israel refuses to talk to the PLO. Palestinians insist the PLO must play a key role in any settlement and the organisation's Chairman Yasser Arafat, has given his blessing to Tuesday's talks with Mr. Baker.

Washington broke off an 18-month dialogue with the PLO in

June 1990 over a failed sea raid by Palestinian guerrillas against Israel the previous month.

Efforts to restore contacts were made more difficult because the PLO took Iraq's side in the war against a U.S.-led alliance.

"There are attempts to repair what has been damaged by the Gulf war," said Ghassan Al Khatib, a leading Palestinian figure.

Leading Palestinians, fearful that Israel and the United States will try to create an alternative leadership to the PLO, insist their contacts with Washington are not a substitute for direct ties with the PLO in future.

"One of the major points to be raised with Baker is to revive the dialogue with the PLO. The PLO must play a prime role in peace efforts to achieve any progress," Mr. Siniora said.

The two leading groups in the 40-month-old Palestinian uprising issued separate leaflets Monday, expressing reservations about Arab contacts with Mr. Baker.

Calling Mr. Baker's visit "suspicious," the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas ordered a general strike in the occupied territories Tuesday and urged Palestinians not to meet him.

None of the Palestinians due to meet Mr. Baker Tuesday represents Hamas.

Another leaflet signed by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising warned Arab personalities "not to give themselves the right to speak in the name of the Palestinian people."

Palestinians said the leaflet, distributed only in the Gaza Strip, may have been written by hardline leftist groups in the unified leadership.

In Tunis, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the second largest group in the PLO, said the United States should speak to the PLO rather than to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The DFLP did not oppose the meeting explicitly but said: "The meeting... should not help the U.S. administration achieve its objective of bypassing the PLO and dividing Palestinians inside (the occupied territories) from those outside."

"(It should not) beautify U.S. policy or spread illusions about the real objectives of this policy, which is openly hostile to the Palestinian people and its rights."

## Hunters destroy hundreds of Gulf mines

BAHRAIN (R) — French and Belgian minehunters have destroyed more than 300 mines in the northern Gulf, over a quarter of all the mines which Iraq told the allies it had planted there, a French naval commander said Monday.

Commander Jacques Fourniol, who commands the French minehunter Sagittaire, said Iraq gave allied forces details of 1,157 mines it laid in a 160-kilometre arc stretching from the Shatt Al Arab waterway to the northern Saudi Arabia coastline.

There was no estimate of the numbers of mines left in the arc where a task force of three Belgian and two French minehunters had found and destroyed 318 mines since they began working in mid-March, he said.

The French and Belgian navies were assigned nearly half of the mine-infested zone.

Iraq told allied military commanders where it laid both land and sea mines during the Gulf war as part of a preliminary ceasefire reached in March.

Capt. Fourniol said he did not know how many mines were planted in six huge minefields the British and American navies had cleared.

But he predicted it would take the European minehunters only another month to complete their part of the job.

"We think in less than one month the work will be done. We are working very quickly — faster than we expected," he said.

Four U.S. minesweepers and three British minehunters are also scouring the northern Gulf.

Three German, three Dutch, three Italian and two more French minehunters are on their way to join the European group.

Two U.S. warships were hit by mines during the war, injuring several crewmen. One, the guided missile cruiser Princeton, was nearly cut in half by two simultaneous underwater blasts.

U.S. military officials in Riyadh said that as of April 4, the U.S. navy alone had destroyed 447 mines in the Gulf.

But they said that figure included all the mines discovered since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Some of those may even have been left from the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, halted by a ceasefire in August 1988, they said.

Capt. Fourniol said the Iraqis may also have dropped at least 300 drifting "contact" mines into the Gulf to try and disrupt shipping in the busy waterway, which is conduit to around two thirds of the Western world's oil.

## Stranded Kuwaitis await return

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of Kuwaitis stranded in Europe by the Iraqi invasion have either moved to neighbouring Gulf states or remain on the continent, awaiting their government's permission to return.

The roughly 1,200 Kuwaitis who spent the war on the Swiss and French shores of Lake Geneva are expected to return within two months.

Most of them have been supported by the Kuwaiti U.N. mission in Geneva, which paid their rent and hotel bills, medical and tuition costs, and provided each with a monthly allowance equivalent to about \$515.

All financial support will end in May "and we assume that all will have gone home by then," said Abdul Aziz Abouzaid, the mission spokesman.

At the Free Kuwait Campaign

offices in London, where television and radio crews once competed for interviews, little is happening now. Caroline Tishering, who was a teacher in Kuwait, said the government had asked Kuwaitis living abroad not to return until rudimentary services and some order were restored.

The organisation estimates about 3,000 Kuwaitis remain in Britain, from a high of 10,000 stranded when Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

It continues searching for missing relatives and promoting a Kuwaiti-British friendship association, and security remains tight.

Kuwaitis working in the office seem anxious to return home.

"The government has asked us not to go back unless it is absolutely essential," said Ms.

Tishering, who taught at the New English School in Kuwait for six years. "We are just trying to be patient."

Seham Al Marzok left her husband and three children in London last month and flew to Saudi Arabia. She drove to Kuwait and into southern Iraq, where she found her elder brother, Faisal, who had just been released by the Iraqis.

Ali Abdullah, an interior designer stranded during his summer break in London, spent two months as an interpreter with the British army in the Gulf and is eager to return home.

"It will be a lot of work," he said. "When we can function is still a question. The government still has so much on their hands when will they require our services we don't know."

## Syria praises U.S. 'commitment'

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria, praising its new-found ally Washington's efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, accused Israel of intransigence Monday by again rejecting any land for peace proposals.

The official daily Tishreen said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's second trip to the Middle East in less than a month showed Washington's commitment to a peace settlement.

"The U.S. interest reflects the commitment made by President (George) Bush during his (November) talks with President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva that he would work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace," Tishreen said.

But the daily said statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his government opposing withdrawal from Arab territories showed "Israel did not

want peace."

"It is natural that this Israeli obstinacy creates concern in Arab countries especially those who reflected their commitment to implement international resolutions and achieve peace by contributing in the liberation of Kuwait," the daily said.

Relations between Damascus and Washington improved dramatically after Syrian troops joined the U.S.-led multinational force against Iraq.

"Mr. Assad is rebuilding ties with the west to ensure any peace moves take Syria into account," Mr. Baker began his tour with a visit to Turkey Sunday. He is due in Damascus on Thursday after talks with Israeli and Egyptian leaders.

He is seeking to foster parallel dialogues between Israel and Arab states, and Israel and the Palestinians, though Syria has

shown no interest in this approach so far.

Mr. Shamir said on Sunday he had new proposals to discuss with Mr. Baker on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including a possible peace conference, but he remains firmly opposed to "territorial concessions."

Syria is seeking the return of the Golan Heights, taken by Israel in 1967.

Mr. Assad told visiting U.S. Congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, in a meeting at his palace in the Syrian port of Latakia Saturday that he believed an international peace conference was the best way to reach a solution.

"President Assad affirmed his keen interest in just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of U.N. resolutions, especially 242 and 338," a Syrian official said after the meeting.

## ICRC asks Israel to lift restrictions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director of operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Jean de Courten, visited Israel and the occupied territories between March 22 and 27 to assess the situation and have talks with the occupation authorities.

While visiting the occupied territories, Mr. de Courten also met officials of the local Red Crescent branches and representatives of the Palestinian community.

His discussions with members of the Israeli government were linked to the rise in violence and repression that has taken place in Israel and the occupied territories over recent months. Mr. de Courten also met families of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Regarding the occupied territories Mr. de Courten asked the Israeli government to implement measures that would allow the population to return to a normal life after almost two months of strict curfew, and to lift restrictions on people's movement within the territories.

Among other issues discussed was the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention and its respect by the occupying power, in particular with regard to the government's settlement policy, the demolition of houses and the expulsion of residents from the occupied territories.

The ICRC operations director stressed that these practices were contrary to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and pointed out that their recurrence inevitably brought about serious humanitarian consequences and increased tension.

Mr. de Courten also insisted that measures be taken to improve the situation of detainees under interrogation and allow family visits to all detainees, wherever they are held on Israeli territory. The ICRC sees this last point as a humanitarian priority, especially concerning detainees held at Qaziot Military Detention Centre, where no family visits are allowed.

The ICRC considers that the points it has raised should be dealt with urgently, if the prevailing tension is to be decreased — ICRC press release.

## Kuwaiti emir's promise of reforms draws mixed response

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The emir of Kuwait said Sunday he would restore parliamentary democracy and hold elections by the end of 1992, a pledge which was greeted with a mixture of optimism and pessimism by opposition figures.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in his first public address since the allies ousted Iraqi forces, said Kuwait remained in danger from a possible "mad act" by Iraq. Without mentioning any country by name, the emir asked Kuwait's "brothers and friends" to keep their forces in the emirate.

The emir's nationally televised announcement came hours after the main Islamic fundamentalist group, the Islamic Constitutional Movement, demanded elections within six months and restoration of the constitution and parliament. Leaders in some Western nations, including the United States and Britain, had also urged the ruling family to allow greater democracy.

The emir also said he would study the possibility of extending political rights to women, who now have no vote. He said the emirate's strict voting eligibility regulations would be eased to allow more people to cast ballots.

Abdullah Al Nebari, a leader of the opposition Kuwait Democratic Forum Coalition, welcomed some of the emir's

announcements. However, he said the opposition would be upset if the election were not held until the end of 1992.

The coalition seeks restoration of the suspended constitution and appointment of an overhauled cabinet.

Democratic Forum spokesman Issa Al Sarraf said reaction to the speech within the coalition was mixed.

"Some are optimistic," he said. "They see this as an opening for the start of political wrangling. And they were pleased that he promised to study political rights for women."

"The pessimists say that since he has not given a clear date for an election, he may try to go back on it. He may be trying to take the heat off his back from the allied governments," Mr. Sarraf said.

In his speech, the emir did not mention the 1962 constitution, which he suspended in 1986 along with dissolving the National Assembly. He said the national elections would be held "within the coming year."

An Information Ministry official later said the emir meant the election would be sometime in 1992.

A drive for political reform gained momentum after the end of the Gulf war.

But the emir asked for allied troops to remain, saying Kuwait

"was not a safe place" yet because of a "fifth column" of Iraqi agents and sympathisers.

"I ask our brothers and friends to leave their forces to help us in defending against any mad act from the tyrant as long as he remains leader of Iraq," the emir said.

The Kuwaiti opposition's voice has grown louder since the Iraqi occupation.

The Islamic Constitutional Movement has demanded a new cabinet "based on competence, honesty in performance, and popularity." Traditionally, many of the top-level cabinet posts were given to members of the Al Sabah ruling family.

The cabinet resigned March 19, following intense criticism by many Kuwaitis over difficulties restoring essential services after the Iraqi occupation. Neither the emir nor any other official has indicated when a new government might be named.

The prime minister and at least some ministers are expected to retain their posts. But the fundamentalists demanded the ouster of those deemed responsible for the situation that led to Iraq's invasion.

Their ouster is essential, the fundamentalist group said in a communique Sunday, "to avoid things getting into a mess and falling into a political chaos as a result of arrogance."

## Kuwait blaze brings together varied cast of firefighters

By Adrian Croft  
Reuters

AHMADI OILFIELDS, Kuwait — The Kuwait oil disaster has brought together the leading players in one of the world's most colourful and dangerous games — the tough-talking men who fight the big oil fires.

Broad Texan draws are heard in the oilfields as a select band of firefighters sets about repairing the worst destruction in oil industry history, the blowing up of more than 500 wells in the Gulf war.

The blazing wells are spewing out six million barrels of oil a day, turning the rich oilfields into an inferno and smothering much of Kuwait in thick smog. Eighty per cent of Kuwait's oil wells were blown up and the industry was shut down.

"No one's ever even dreamed of this many oil wells burning at one time," said Raymond Henry, vice-

president of Red Adair Co., one of three Texas-based firefighting companies in Kuwait.

"There's never been anything like this," said Boots Hansen, co-owner of the Boots and Coots Company, which normally fights 25 to 30 fires a year.

Oil industry officials say that when all the firefighters and support staff arrive, up to 85 per cent of the world's oil firefighting capacity will be in Kuwait.

Fewer than half a dozen companies in the world specialise in oil firefighting and the fiercely independent, competitive crews have never before worked together on a project.

"It's unheard of (working together)," said Larry Flak, an American oil engineer coordinating firefighting for the Kuwait Oil Company.

"We've never worked together on anything," Mr. Hansen said. "We've all got

our customers, our own people, states around the world that call certain companies that they like to work for them."

The sheer size of the disaster forced Kuwait to call in all the companies. Even so, they estimate it will take 18 months to put out the blazes.

Government officials do not know when Kuwait, a major oil producer with 92 billion barrels in reserves, will get back to the 1.5 million barrels per day it produced before the Iraqi invasion last Aug. 2.

The Texans measure up to their larger-than-life image. They spit, tell stories of their adventures around the world and sprinkle their conversation liberally with expletives.

Despite their hard-drinking reputation, they say they don't mind doing without liquor in this Muslim country.

The number of firefighters is small. The three big companies already in Kuwait —

Red Adair Co., Boots and Coots and Wildwell — have two or three teams, usually of four men each.

A Canadian company, Safety Boss, is arriving soon and another Texan firm, Cudd Pressure Control, will arrive in about four weeks, Mr. Flak said.

They are helped by a host of support staff, including engineers, technicians and labourers. Two hundred workers are already in Kuwait to fight the fires and rebuild the oil industry and this will eventually grow to 3,000, Mr. Flak said.

The firefighters have divided up the fields between them and meet every evening to discuss progress.

"We've had instances where a well was started by the Red Adair Co. and finished by Boots and Coots, because Adair had the equipment to start and Boots and Coots had the equipment to finish," Mr.

Flak said. "We've had a tremendous degree of cooperation."

So far, the companies have capped 19 wells which were gushing but not on fire. They are expected to start fighting blazing wells when seawater starts being pumped to the Ahmadi field near Kuwait City next week.

The firefighters say there is no rivalry between them over who will put out the first fire. "I've been doing it 37 years. It doesn't make much difference to me," Mr. Hansen said.

But Mr. Flak thinks otherwise. "I think that bragging rights are going to come in, whoever gets the first one out."

Red Adair, 76, the world's most famous oil firefighter, is not in Kuwait but may visit later.

Wildwell, founded in 1975, is directed by its owner, Joe Bowden. Boots and Coots' team is led by Mr. Hansen, 64,

who set up his own firm with partner Coots Matthews after Adair fired them both in 1977 after a quarrel.

"We were fired... for insubordination, we think. I got a two-paragraph letter after 26 years," Mr. Hansen said. But he said Adair had done them a favour.

"Every Dec. 6, we send him a thank you card."

Kuwait Oil Minister Rasheed Al Ameer has said it costs between \$1 and \$2 million a day to fight the fires.

How much each company is being paid is a closely-guarded secret. But the rewards for battling hundreds of fires in oilfields littered with unexploded bombs are high.

"Plenty," one firefighter said, when asked how much the contract was worth.

A fireman said he had earned up to \$300,000 a year as a firefighter — but he had never been better paid than now.

"Bush stresses in his message that the situation in northern Iraq is extremely dramatic and he believes it is necessary to have the same spirit of cooperation and solidarity as shown during the Gulf crisis," said Kaya Toperi, President Turgut Ozal's spokesman, in a statement.

Mr. Baker said he and Ozal had spoken late Sunday about "the importance of moving quickly and with dispatch to promote as large an international humanitarian effort as we can."

"I think what's really needed is a full-scale, very large international effort with all the international welfare agencies and organisations," he told reporters. He said the aid should be coordinated by "one single source," possibly the United Nations.

Mr. Ozal has given assurances the border will remain open. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the United States may work through the United Nations to set up a buffer zone for the Kurds and Shiites fleeing to Iraq's borders.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

6:51 ..... Fajr  
6:57 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:37 ..... Dhur  
15:12 ..... 'Asr  
18:04 ..... Maghreb  
19:24 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swidich Tel. 810740.  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285, 685328.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terrence Church Tel. 623366.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 623363. Tel.

628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654922.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy to cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh, causing

dust in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. In Amman, it will be dusty with northerly fresh wind and calm sea.  
Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 6/15  
Aqaba ..... 13/23  
Dera'a ..... 8/16  
Jordan Valley ..... 14/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 72 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khaled Halayqa ..... 793222  
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh ..... 885880

Dr. Mahmoud Azzam ..... 819925  
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawwa ..... 732056  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Azzam pharmacy ..... 670555  
Naboukha pharmacy ..... 626372  
Al Salahi pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmezzan pharmacy ..... 637660

IRABDI:  
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Tani ..... (—)  
Al Sharran pharmacy ..... (279825)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Ziad Ja'aidin ..... (—)  
Khalaf pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Fire Brigade ..... 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 637228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 60800  
Price Complaints ..... 661776  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 121  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 010230  
Overseas Calls ..... 631001  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 631001  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
R/F Light Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 636140  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 661714  
Palestine, Shmezzan ..... 669131  
Shmezzan Hospital ..... 849845  
Al-Majidi Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 6612757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 661646  
Italian, Al-Majidi ..... 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775112/6  
Army, Marja ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Jm Sina Hospital ..... (09)98732  
IRABDI:  
Princess Beama Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272715  
Im Al Nafesa Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQAHA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple ..... 850 / 750  
Banana ..... 500 / 450  
Bazana (Mellama) ..... 450 / 400  
Beans ..... 650 / 550



## Minister opens mosque

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani Sunday opened Sido Al Kurdi mosque in Um Uthaina area in Amman.

Addressing worshippers at the mosque, Mr. Kilani noted the importance of building mosques and highlighted the role of mosques in raising and preparing generations. He said that "mosques are centres of educational, economic and social culture and Muslims have carried torches of guidance and education to the whole world."

The two-floor mosque includes a house for teaching Koran, a library, a special place for women to pray in, and a Sharia institute which will be run by Ibadul Rahman cultural society.

The society will establish a Sharia school for girls from the first grade until the ninth grade, similar to Awqaf ministry schools. The mosque was built by Haj Mohammad Sido Al Kurdi.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of Lower House deputies and Awqaf officials.

## Deputies voice appreciation of actions taken in rain-damaged south

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's National Bloc has sent a memorandum containing observations following a field tour of the southern governorates, which were flooded by torrential rainfall.

In the memo, the deputies voice their appreciation of the rapid actions taken by the local authorities and lauded their efforts in reopening the roads and providing water by tankers.

The bloc noted that many of the culverts and bridges were built in unsuitable places, and without a thorough planning and study.

The bloc called on the Ministry of Public Works to embark on a new study aimed at reconsidering the locations of culverts and bridges taking into consideration the water disposal capacity. The bloc proposed that a technical committee, grouping experts from the Ministry of Public Works, be formed to inspect the valleys and small streams on a regular basis each October, noting the importance of building dams everywhere.

The bloc said that payment of

compensation to the people hard hit by the floods tops the priority of pressing issues, adding that reports on the names of people affected, their locations and the scale of damage to their property were correct and could meet the purpose.

In the meantime, Karak Governor Eid Qataneh Sunday made a tour of Al Taybeh and Khureishah villages to inspect and assess the damage caused by the heavy downpour which fell in Jordan recently.

He also got first hand information on the actions taken by the local authorities to repair the damage resulting from the floods.

At a meeting with heads of the local councils Mr. Qataneh said that the ministries of Awqaf and Agriculture had sent part of their equipment to the area to help open the agricultural roads, repair the water canals and water springs.

Mr. Qataneh was accompanied on the visit by South Mazar District governor and a number of government department heads in the governorate.

## Alawneh presents plan for reaching self-reliance

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh Monday announced a new plan for developing the agricultural sector in a serious effort to implement the ministry's declared objectives of enhancing self-reliance.

The plan dwells on methods of utilising land in the best manner, developing animal wealth, an improving agricultural marketing as well as addressing some administrative shortcomings.

The plan also calls for utilising half of the irrigated land by planting field crops, provided that shortage in production caused by this shift be covered by upgrading production capacity.

According to the plan, an area of 1.5 million dunums of unexploited land will be used for rain fed agriculture.

The plan stresses the need for establishing earth dams in the Jordanian desert in a bid to use the land for agriculture.

It also calls for improving the local races of livestock and increase their production, and for rectifying the agricultural marketing policy by opening new markets, modernising the pricing system, and setting up a special fund for supporting and promoting agricultural exports.

Commenting on the new plan, Mr. Alawneh said it entailed a change from the central office management to field management to enhance interactions with farmers.

The minister also said the plan envisaged the turning of desert into pasture, saying that the ministry was ready to provide the necessary help and noting that he made the necessary contacts with the United Nations office in Amman to help achieve this aim.

## JCO holds seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation's (JCO) institute Sunday held a seminar to discuss issues pertaining to the Development and Employment Fund.

Participants at the seminar discussed credit policies, the possibility of financing the cooperative societies' productive projects, and convening a meeting between workers at cooperative societies and officials at the fund to exchange views on ways to contribute to rural development.

Dr. Hikmat Malkawi said the financial capabilities of most of the beneficiaries from the cooperative societies had prompted JCO to cooperate and coordinate with the Development and Employment Fund.

The purpose of the move was to help the cooperative societies take advantage of the fund in helping them finance productive projects, he said.

The fund's Director General Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash reviewed the objectives and duties of the fund.

He said the establishment of the fund stemmed from the government's keenness to improve the living conditions of the less fortunate in the society and increase their incomes.

## Speaker strongly criticises U.N. resolution on Iraq

## Arabiyat reviews House's performance during last session

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday criticised the latest United Nations Security Council resolution 687 against Iraq, describing it as tyrannical and unjust.

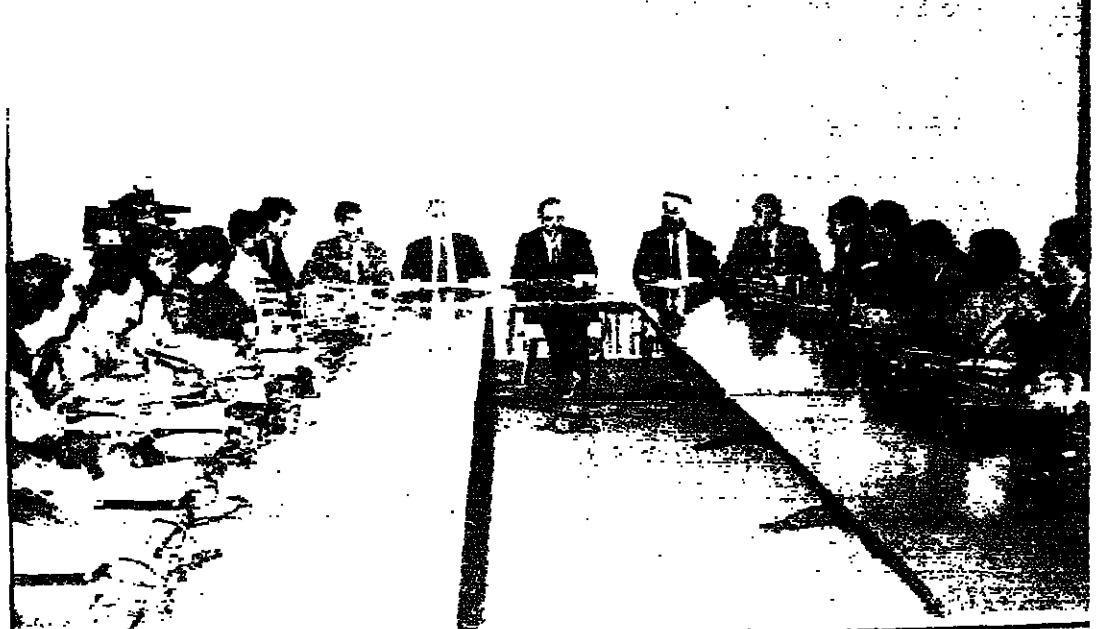
Speaking at a press conference held Monday to brief the media on the House's activities and achievements during its second ordinary session, Mr. Arabiyat said the Security Council resolution was not unprecedented and it meant oppression and hegemony.

He added that Iraq had no choice but to accept it "in the absence of just and sane voices, which could have aborted such a single-sided and unjust decision." He stressed that the resolution was passed at the request of the United States, which imposed it "from a position of power, arrogance and a false aura of military victory."

Mr. Arabiyat said the opening of the House's second session coincided with the eruption of the Gulf crisis which occupied a major part of the House's deliberations. He mentioned the cables sent by him to the U.N. secretary general, U.N. Security Council president and other international and parliamentary bodies in this regard.

Mr. Arabiyat said the second session had focused on enhancing the concept of parliamentary dialogue and the need to institutionalise such a dialogue. "This was clearly demonstrated through the various replies to the government's statements," he said adding that the replies were prepared following serious and objective debates by the various House committees.

He highlighted the importance of the democratic march Jordan has embarked upon in enhancing rules of institutional parliamentary work, saying that parliamentary work was characterised by pluralism rather than by unilateralism.



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday holds a press conference (Petra photo)

Mr. Arabiyat said that the House's democratic approach to the various issues had contributed to the emergence of new features characterising parliamentary work. "Such an approach has led to the creation of mature political and legislative work, based on reason, objectivity and honourable national stands."

Mr. Arabiyat pointed out that the House had endorsed 41 laws during 33 sessions held by the House at the rate of two sessions a week, which represented a record compared to former sessions. He said that the House still had to deal with 56 laws. Most of these laws are in force, he said, some dating from 1966.

Mr. Arabiyat said that the House had asked the government to present detailed statements on local-policy related issues, such as pricing, water, unemployment, agriculture, information and external policies.

Mr. Arabiyat added that such statements were presented to the House for debate by special committees formed to study different

issues. Mr. Arabiyat reviewed the activities of the various House committees. The External Relations Committee, he said, held six meetings, all dedicated to discussing the Gulf crisis. The committee also launched political actions during the first days of the Gulf crisis and had consulted the foreign minister several times on the Jordanian political move vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis.

The Financial Committee, he said, has discussed 35 laws and three reports referred to it by the Audit Bureau.

The Legal Committee discussed 88 laws, finalising 44 of them. The Administrative Committee looked into 48 proposals as well as 104 complaints referred to it.

The Education Committee discussed three laws on education and higher education, in addition to three complaints, but has not settled them yet.

The General Freedoms and People's Rights Committee has dealt with citizens' issues, including those fired from their work,

detained or arrested for political reasons.

The Agricultural Committee discussed the water strategy in Jordan in preparation for coming up with the right decision on this subject.

The Health Committee has finalised the law on the Jordanian Medical Board and is to discuss the health policy nation-wide.

The Palestine and occupied Arab territories Committee discussed a number of issues pertaining to the sufferings of people under Israeli occupation, expressing support for the Palestinian uprising, and the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. The committee adopted a decision on the situation of Gazans and one on the situations of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait. The Badia (desert) and Rural Areas Committee discussed problems encountered by badia and rural area residents, including unemployment, granting of interest-free loans, the state water wells, drilling wells and providing fodder.

## Iraqis welcome Jordanian citizens with open arms

From Sana Atiyeh in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Being a Jordanian in Iraq during these difficult times, soon after the U.S.-led allied bombardment of this ancient country, is a genuine treat. Jordanians in this country are loved and respected by individuals from practically every sector of Iraqi society to a point where one feels embarrassed from the degree of people's hospitality, kind words and actions.

This is the way Iraqis express their gratitude for Jordan for its official position against the U.S.-led allied intervention in the Gulf and the subsequent war against Iraq; and a show of gratitude for the tremendous Jordanian public support for Iraq since last August.

As soon as a Jordanian sets foot on Iraqi territory, the official and popular treatment is beyond description. If a car with a Jordanian licence plate is stopped at a military checkpoint, it is because the soldiers or officers want to say "you are welcome here, you are a truly great people and country." Otherwise, you are provided with a salute and a wave to pass through without any questions. "Jordan is truly the only country which dared to stand up for its principles and stood by us when we were isolated and betrayed by everyone else," an information ministry official told the Jordan Times.

The official and popular Jordanian position towards Iraq since Aug. 2 has been engraved in the minds of the Iraqi people, just as the Kingdom's position with Iraq during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war was not forgotten. And Iraqis seem to be prepared to express their appreciation on any given occasion.

"There is no doubt we receive special treatment. Wherever you go in Iraq, Jordan is like a magic word for the people here," said Ahmad Mufleh, the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

He told the Jordan Times that "all doors open to Jordanians and life is made easier for us, and we can move more freely," adding that Iraqi gratitude is expressed from all levels of society.

Mr. Mufleh said that Iraqis were acutely aware of the price Jordan paid for its position in regard to Iraq.

The local newspapers carry almost daily stories on Jordan and quote columns and editorials from Jordanian newspapers, many of them on the front pages. The letters and statements of support for Iraq and its leader are

printed in full text.

Radio Baghdad also makes a point of quoting Jordanian papers and broadcasting news related to the Kingdom.

"Besides its political stand, you must not forget that Jordan is alleviating much of our daily suffering being our lifeline to the outside world," an Iraqi journalist said, referring to Jordan's being the only friendly neighbour with an open border with Iraq — which is surrounded by hostile neighbours: Syria to the west, Iran to the east, Turkey to the north, Kuwait to the southeast and Saudi Arabia to the southwest.

Although all types of Jordanian organisations continue to provide aid to Iraq through individual donations, the amounts are not enough to meet the needs of the 18 million people here. Nevertheless, this modest Jordanian contribution is highly valued and is a subject that is referred to by the Iraqi people.

"This small country that has to rely on outside help to survive was the only one which took this courageous position with Iraq despite its economic and financial losses imposed on it by the anti-Iraq allies," an Iraqi man said. "Jordan did not bow down to the rich countries because of their honourable principles. We cannot forget that."

Surprisingly, Iraqis did not expect Jordan to militarily participate on the side of Iraq during the war, understanding the limited capabilities of the Kingdom's resources, and acknowledging that Jordan would not have made a difference militarily. For them a small country which lacks wealth and resources, suffers financially and risks its life of comfort to side with Iraq, while the majority of

the Arab countries participated in a war against it, is "richness in itself," as one put it.

The Jordanian charge d'affaires confirmed that Iraqis held high regard in Jordan for taking financial risks by siding with its principles.

"They (Iraqis) feel that although Jordan is the least rich country, it still tied its destiny with Iraq despite the punishment of the Kingdom for sticking to its position," Mr. Mufleh stressed. He added that Jordan was the country that gave the people here "some hope that the Arab identity still existed" after feeling betrayed by the Arab members of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

In much of the gratitude expressed through kind words, there is almost always reference to King Hussein's personal position in the Gulf affair, and many describe him as being "brave and honourable."

But how does Iraq feel about Jordanian diplomatic moves towards some of the Arab countries in the U.S. coalition?

An Iraqi analyst said that Iraq did not want Jordan isolated and that Iraq itself was working towards reconciliation ... particularly an Arab one. He referred to Iraq's participation in the regular Arab League meeting in Cairo last Saturday, explaining that "it was a step taken by Iraq towards that aim regardless of the league's moving from Tunis to Cairo and of Cairo's strong anti-Iraq position during the crisis and war."

Mr. Mufleh said that politically Jordan is seen by Baghdad as a bridge to link Iraq with the rest of the world. The Jordanian official said: "I believe that Amman's political and diplomatic moves are done in collaboration with Baghdad."

## CSCC to be closed Fridays

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) will be observing its weekly holiday on Friday rather than Saturday as of April 20. The aim of the new decision, which was announced by the corporation's Director General Mohammad Al Abdullah, is to enable beneficiaries to attend Friday prayers and to follow the working week applied in the various ministries, government departments and public institutions. Mr. Abdullah also said that the corporation would follow the same programme as government institutions during the Eid holiday.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King calls Assad, Saleh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday exchanged views on the current Arab situations and the future of common Arab work with Syrian and Yemeni Presidents Hafez Al Assad and Ali Abdullah Saleh. In two telephone calls the King and the two Arab leaders made an evaluation of the international moves to settle the Middle East question.

### UKAs executive committee elected

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Kingdom universities' graduates held a General Assembly meeting on March 29 electing a new executive committee for the years 1991-1992. The executive committee is made up of the following: Bader B. Rashid, president, Dr. Midhat Abdel Malik, vice-president, Reem Andoni, secretary, Hassan Alaeddin, treasurer, Iyad Barghouti, Nawal Aglabi, Said Khalifeh, members.

### New rates for Iraq-bound trucks

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport and Telecommunications Minister Jamal Al Saraih Monday fixed new rates for land transport by refrigerated trucks from Amman to Baghdad. According to the new rates, refrigerated trucks with actual load of 20 tonnes will get a lumpsum of JD 550 per trip, excluding any other charges payable at the border posts. Cars carrying loads in excess of 20 tonnes, will get JD 550 for the first 20 tonnes, in addition to a charge of JD 27.5 for each additional tonne, excluding any other charges, which should be borne to the agent or the owner of goods transported from Aqaba to Iraq.

### March produce exports worth JD 4m

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fruit and vegetables during March totalled 12.2 tonnes, worth JD 4 million, according to the Agricultural Marketing Corporation sources. The corporation said that vegetables accounted for 60 per cent of the exported produce, followed by fruit, which accounted for 40 per cent. The sources said that last March exports were 2,500 tonnes higher than those of February. Jordan's imports during the reported month amounted to 2,417 tonnes, compared to 3,398 tonnes during March 1990.

### CSCC has branch in South Shuneh

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) has opened a new branch in South Shuneh to serve the government employees in the Jordan Valley region. Mohammad Al Abdullah, the corporation director who opened the branch, said that a great number of employees in the local community would benefit from the services of the new branch, which opens from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily except for Saturdays.

### APC donates JD 60,000 to municipalities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has donated JD 60,000 to four municipalities in southern Jordan to help them carry out their municipal projects, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Al Zaben. The minister said that JD 30,000 went to Karak, JD 15,000 to Aqaba, JD 5,000 to Ghor Mazraa and JD 10,000 to Ghor Al Safi.

## The Cooperative Society for Cow Breeders in Zarqa Governorate

wishes to buy 1,200 first-time pregnant cows of German or Dutch origin, in accordance with the following specifications and terms:

1. First-time pregnant cows should be free from any congenital deficiencies, provided that the percentage of American blood is no less than 75%.
2. Pregnant cow should weigh 500 kilograms or above upon selection.
3. Upon selection, cows should be 6-7 months pregnant.
4. Production of mother cow should not be less than 5,000 kilograms of milk during the first season.
5. Insurance period should be one month following their arrival to their destination in Jordan. Rates of insurance should be as follows: 100% against death, 50% against miscarriage and 100% for any fracture upon arriving at the farm, provided that meat price be credited to the insurance company.

### TERMS OF PAYMENT

Payment of prices will be paid as follows: 15% upon signing the agreement, while the remaining balance will be paid in 12 equal monthly installments, allowing a grace period of two months following the arrival of cows at the society's farm. The Society shall give a bank guarantee, issued by the Cooperative Bank, undertaking to effect payments in due course. It is preferable that offers be made in Jordanian currency. Bidders shall undertake to ship the cows by a Danish ship and to host a committee made up of several persons, drawn up on the basis of one person for each 100 cows. A person should accompany each ship to supervise the shipment of cows. **Deadline for sending offers is Monday April 22, at noon. Each offer should include a bank guarantee covering 5% of the value of the offer or a certified cheque.**

The Management Committee

## Karak Governorate prepares plans for restoration work

KARAK (Petra) — As part of the Karak Governorate's endeavours to restore installations damaged by the recent rainstorms and floods which swept the governorate, a programme from the ministries of public work and agriculture was prepared to organise the work of teams and coordinate between the various institutions in restoration works.

In a meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of Karak Governor Eid Al Qataneh, the governorate decided to form five committees to supervise the work in damaged areas.



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## Not a free-for-all

INTERNATIONAL concern, particularly Western, for the plight of Iraqi Kurds is understandable. For us, however, the concern is not only humanitarian; nor is it guilt-ridden. The Kurds are our people. They are Iraqis first and foremost and our concern for them is no less than for the rest of the entire 18 million Iraqis who are suffering from the immense devastation that the allied war wreaked on their country.

The "international community" — if that is what one should call the coalition led by the U.S. — has suddenly galvanised into action to help the refugees stranded on the Iraqi-Turkish border within Iraqi territory and, of course, in Turkey itself. Perhaps the coalition feels guilty and a sense of remorse over encouraging the Kurds to rebel against the Iraqi government, but that is besides the point.

No-one, least of all the allies themselves, needed any detailed information on the devastation the allied assault left in Iraq and how the Iraqis are living under sub-human conditions after the Gulf war. But we did not hear anyone in Washington, London or Paris raising concern over their suffering or mobilising hundreds of million dollars to help them in the five weeks since the ceasefire in the war. Isn't it fair to ask that all Iraqis whose lives have been shattered deserve equal treatment if the concern behind help is humanitarian? After all, the suffering of the tens of thousands of Iraqis who fled their towns to the border is not dramatically different from Iraqis elsewhere in the country.

And why hasn't the "international community," responded positively to Iraq's declared willingness to accept a United Nations mission to witness the situation of Iraqis and to cooperate with the world body in relief efforts?

Iraq has declared an amnesty to all Kurds, except those who have committed serious crimes. Why didn't the international community start work from the Baghdad end of affairs and encourage the return of all refugees to their hometowns in view of the amnesty as well as the pledge of democratic reforms in the country?

No one is disputing the miserable state of the thousands of refugees massed in northern Iraq or their urgent need for help. But the way to do that is through the proper channel if one respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

No, the "international community," had to go all the way to violate the sovereignty of Iraq by entering its territory and airspace to drop relief supplies to the refugees from military planes and also had the audacity to threaten dire action if the Iraqi authorities countered the violation of Iraqi territory.

For all practical purposes, it would seem, the allies feel free to subject Iraq to any kind of abuse and do not for a moment care for international laws and norms when it comes to the shattered country and its people.

But, let them be aware, Iraq may be shattered but it cannot be the ground for a free-for-all. For those who think otherwise, a timely reminder would be: Someone, somewhere, sometime will have to bear the consequences.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Monday attacked what it called the false concern displayed by a number of Western countries over the fate of Kurds who rebelled against the Baghdad government and had to flee the country. The paper said that the concern manifested by these countries "is no more than a picture of falsehood and hypocrisy which deserves our contempt." These Western countries did not show any concern for the Palestinian people facing the atrocities of the Israeli military machine, nor have the Iraqi people received any sympathy from the same Western nations following the tragedy that came with the raids on Iraqi cities, the paper noted. The latest Security Council resolution which aimed at humiliating Iraq is indeed directed against the whole Arab Nation, and that resolution is enough to expose the real intentions of the Western countries which pretend to be concerned about certain groups within the Iraqi community, the paper pointed out. The Council resolution and America's continued occupation of Iraqi territory together with the hostile actions on the part of the Western countries towards the Iraqi people, said the paper, are enough causes for anger and distress. But it said these attitudes should be well accepted by the Arabs and Muslims since they "are bound to deepen hatred towards the West and foster our lust for revenge against those who wish to turn our nation into slaves serving colonial powers." The coming generations, the paper added, will sooner or later find the chance to settle the account with the nation's enemies.

Despite all attempts to ignore Jordan's role in the peace-making process in the wake of the Gulf war, Western and Eastern countries are now both admitting that Amman has a key role to play in the coming phase, said Al Dastour Arabic daily. Jordan is located in the heart of the Arab region, and extends along the longest confrontation lines with Israel; and therefore any settlement with the enemy can by no means be feasible without Jordan's participation, the paper noted. Furthermore, Jordan maintains the strongest ties with the Palestinian people and their problem, and is linked to the West Bank demographically and geographically with people on both banks forming a united family; and it can by no means be imaginable to anybody that Jordan could be excluded from any lasting settlement in the Middle East, the paper argued. The paper said that the capitals of the Eastern and Western nations have now started to admit the importance of the position and the role of Jordan which has proved itself to be objective and moderate in all political moves in the past. Jordan, which has all along adhered to international principles and called for the establishment of justice and lasting peace, said the paper, is an essential element for any future settlement. Any attempts to exclude this country from the peace-making process, added the paper, can be no more than empty manoeuvres designed to mislead world public opinion and distract the Arabs from the Palestine issue and conceal from them the behind-the-scenes conspiracies being hatched against the Arab Nation.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# National identity vs. dog food diplomacy

By Rami G. Khouri

THE unfolding developments in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East are a fascinating if often gruesome indicator of the true dimensions of the true battle now being waged in the region. The military battle to remove Iraq from Kuwait accomplished its narrow objective, as predicted. Now, the broader political battle is engaged — a battle which will determine the fate of not only millions of Arabs, but billions of other people throughout the Third World.

This is not a battle which fits neatly into the rectangular frame of a television screen, the limited historical and cultural mindset of Americans, or the racist imperial arrogance and diplomatic duplicity of the British ("here you are, old chap, have a cup of tea while I give your country to someone else..."). You will not hear about this battle very much on American or British television, because it does not break down into neat segments of 10-second sound bites, 2-minute commercial breaks, or 26-minute episodes.

The battle, very simply, is between those in the Third World who seek to live a life of humanity and national dignity, and those in the West whose sole imperative is to maintain and expand the perimeters of an inhuman, consumer-oriented commercial empire that swallows up whatever stands in its path, whether individuals, countries or whole cultures. The most striking characteristics of the western states conducting this battle, primarily the United States and Great Britain but including others as well, are the sheer magnitude, audacity and consistency of their lies, double standards and hypocrisy.

Take the example of Iraq today, and the continuing western drive to humiliate it and weaken it. There are two purposes for this, to try to induce someone to overthrow Saddam Hussein, and also to serve as a lesson and a deterrent for other countries which might think of challenging the Anglo-American Teatime and Bubblegum Empire. While American officials repeat three times a day that they do not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq, American soldiers occupy about 20 per cent of the country and the American president has spent the last half a year or so begging for someone with minimal Iraqi credentials — a moustache, swarthy demeanour and some date-peeling experience will do, because in the land of herd morality nothing is remembered after two minutes — to overthrow President Saddam Hussein and bring Iraq into the Teatime and Bubblegum Empire.

The American president personally instigates the Iraqis to rise up in revolt against the government in Baghdad, but when that government fights to maintain its control and the national integrity of Iraq in the face of revolts in the north and south of American president says he is pained by the developments inside Iraq. Pained by what he himself brought on? Never mind for the moment the merits or demerits of Kurdish aspiration, because the dynamics of this situation are offered here simply as an example of the crudity of western behaviour.

Now, the United States and others seek a U.N. role to protect the Kurds because the harsh predicament of the Kurds resulted directly from Washington's naive meddling in the region — but where is the parallel concern for protection of the Palestinians from the excesses of an Israeli government and military financed directly by Washington itself?

Meanwhile, the same United States which waved vigorously the flag of principles of freedom chose to disregard and pressure those Arab countries which allowed their people to express themselves freely during the crisis (such as Jordan, Yemen and others). Now,

it also hesitates to face up to the fact that democracy in Kuwait will inevitably spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula; some years down the road fewer Arab countries in the future will pay the West to build their countries, destroy them and rebuild them again. Arab democracy will mean fewer Arab countries looking for flags to borrow, armies to rent, or protection from false imperial stewards. Have another piece of bubble gum, and chew it over for a while. The battle will be long. There will be plenty of time to think these things through.

I say this with no real surprise. We know, of course, that there is no room for morality in the policy of the American and British governments. The packets of bubble gum and tea on which these generations of leaders in London and Washington were raised did not have pictures of people from the Third World. The political education of folks such as Bush, Baker, Thatcher, Major and Hurd was not based on a human understanding of other people or a wholistic appreciation for the physical and moral integrity of Earth. Rather, it was based on crass pandering to masses driven by an apparently insatiable appetite for goods that could only be produced profitably through direct or indirect control of people and resources in the developing countries. It reflected a philosophy of win-at-any-price.

Western politicians assume that they can manipulate, buy and use political leadership in the Third World just as they can manipulate, buy and use voters in Philadelphia and Birmingham. In the eyes and mind of the West, there are no nations, only electorates; no societies, only markets; and no people, only consumers. The world is an expedient and utilitarian place, full of obliging people who will do anything if they are paid to do so, and full of obliging countries that will change their borders, flags and allegiances if the price is right. And, if those countries you seek do not conveniently exist, well, the solution is simple, old chap: have a cup of tea, and create the countries that best serve your purposes! Never mind the national identity and dignity of the indigenous people of the region.

Yes, the reality of our region today imposes itself once again on the naive and infantile worldview of the frenzied rulers in the imperial heartland in London and Washington. Appearance would suggest that the Kurdish refugees are dishevelled, uprooted and lost, while their visitor this week, Mr. James Baker, is self-assured, composed and confident. The race is, it's the other way around. The Kurds know who they are and what they want, while Mr. Baker is the one who wanders the diplomatic landscape, groping for new initiatives into the Teatime and Bubblegum Empire, searching vainly for accomplices in magic tricks and for ghosts who do not exist. Mr. Baker must have been very embarrassed during his visit yesterday to the Kurdish refugee camps, seeing as it was his own President Bush who instigated the Kurds to insurrection and led them to the mountainside. They did what people around here have been doing for thousands of years; they manifested their ancient identity — and the American president offered them only bubble gum, then half an hour with the James Baker Travelling Morality Show.

There is concern in Washington and London that things in Iraq are not going as planned. Promises of money and political support did not instantly produce a new leadership. Things north of Kuwait do not work as smoothly as things south of Kuwait. These new defiant Arabs do not respond like the Arabs of old; they don't bow down and kiss the imperial robes. They don't take their tea with milk. They don't care about bubble gum.

The Western imperial heartland is learning once again about national identity in the Arab World and the broader Middle East, and the lesson will be both long and painful. The West's antiseptic morality and air war machine could destroy Iraq and bomb it back to the pre-industrial age, bringing death to hundreds of thousands of people and hardship to many millions. But the blowers of bubbles and the gulpers of tea never could, and still cannot, come to terms with the full human and national reality of this region: that there are hundreds of millions of Arab and other people who have lived in these lands for thousands of years, and who care deeply about concepts of personal honour and national dignity. They have struggled for that honour and dignity against heavy odds, and will continue to do so until they achieve them. Their goal is an intangible, their motivation a sentiment, their weapon a sense of identity. None of these things mean very much in London and Washington. Honour and dignity are awkward for a country such as the United States where nearly half of black children live under the poverty level. They do not fit easily into 30-second stock market reports on television in between advertisements for 86 different kinds of dog foods. The have no place among a British population that will nonchalantly kill the Arab people of Iraq while expressing extreme concern about saving the birds of the Gulf, or an American population that understands foreign contracts better than it understands foreign countries.

The broader political battle which is now engaged is a clash of civilisations and cultures. It is the ultimate and perhaps inevitable struggle between the corporate culture of the Occident (the need to produce incessantly in order to consume and to satisfy personal greed) and the collegial community culture of the Orient (the need to protect individuals by assuring the integrity and dignity of the larger community, whether family, tribe or nation).

The manner in which Baker, Hurd & friends deal with the people of the Middle East in the coming few months will be great fun to watch, because they will be trying vainly to create a new order to replace the failed old order. They will use money and false morality, threats and cajoling, and ringing assertions of international law and other examples of great imperial fiction. But they will go on chewing their bubble gum and drinking their tea — until, one day, when the national dignity of the people of the Middle East and Third World triumphs over the frenzy of oil men aimlessly wandering the deserts of Arabia and the mountains of eastern Anatolia searching for partners in political confusion and diplomatic illusion, the bubble will pop and the face of Washington will be covered in gum, and the tea will spill and the lap of London will be drenched, and very few people around the world will care, or even notice.

The message of the people of this region is that we must live in dignity and freedom, and that despite our own indigenous problems with tyranny and autocracy, by far the greatest threat to our dignity and freedom over the last 2,400 years — since Alexander the Great — has come from the predatory interference of neatly-dressed emissaries and impressive armies from the imperial heartlands of the West. If those dapper purveyors of duplicity think they can come to us again today and lure us into a new century of shame and failure, in order to keep the imperial supermarkets of Arkansas and Sussex well stocked with 86 different varieties of dog food, they will soon find that they are badly mistaken. They will try, but they will fail. The battle is engaged. The dog food doesn't have a chance. Watch.

## Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

relations as well as for resolving the Middle East conflict," said the senior official.

On the bilateral side, Jordanian-American ties took a plunge during the Gulf crisis. In principle, the Kingdom rejected Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, but it also refused to join the anti-Iraq coalition led by the U.S. This led to strains in relations, and the U.S. rigorously applied the anti-Iraq sanctions to the extent that Jordan suffered huge economic losses and faced major obstacles in its own industrial sector. Furthermore, the U.S. Congress suspended financial aid to the Kingdom after His Majesty King Hussein deplored the massive devastation that the allies caused in Iraq during the Gulf war.

Despite the pressure, Jordan remained firm in its opposition to the military option to reverse the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and repeatedly called for a negotiated solution to the problem.

Mr. Baker, who visited the Middle East immediately after the Gulf war ended in late February in a bid to push Middle East peace efforts, stayed away from Jordan, but President Bush and senior officials have always underlined the key role Jordan has to play in any peace process in the region.

Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's political advisor, visited Washington last month and met with Mr. Baker and other senior officials. It is not yet known what exactly transpired at those meetings, but it was one opportunity for both sides to exchange ideas, and perhaps to convey Jordan's perception of the two-track approach advocated by the Bush administration.

Mr. Masri last week said Mr. Abu Odeh's meetings with senior U.S. officials was aimed at raising the level of bilateral contacts and that there no particular objectives or ideas were discussed.

Mr. Baker, who arrived in Israel Monday on his second visit to the Middle East after the Gulf war, has been emphasising what the U.S. sees as the need to "build confidence" among the parties prior to negotiations along the two tracks.

But, said one Jordanian official, "What possible purpose would it serve in resolving the Palestinian problem if, say for instance, Yemen improves its

relations with Israel?"

"All issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict should be on the table, and the various dimensions of the problem should be addressed in their right perspectives," said the official. "In order to achieve that, there is no alternative to quiet diplomacy and a carefully prepared international conference."

The official said it was unfair and unjust for the U.S. to continue to press the Arab side to make concessions prior to any realistic peace moves.

"If anything, Israel could do a lot in confidence-building," the official said. "For a start, they could begin treating the Palestinian people (in the occupied territories) as human beings," he added, referring to the series of arbitrary measures imposed on the occupied territories by the occupation authorities to quell the 40-month-old intifada.

Within the context of the international conference idea, Jordan is willing to go to the gathering in a joint delegation with the Palestinian side, "as long as it is clearly understood and accepted that Palestinians have to play a leading role," according to the official, who was reaffirming the Kingdom's position that it would not represent the Palestinian people in peace talks.

"It is for the Palestinian people to decide who their representatives are, and there is no doubt that they support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as their representative," he noted.

Israel has rejected the parity idea and refuses to deal with the PLO. Instead, it wants direct bilateral talks with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and "non-PLO" Palestinians from within the occupied territories. There are indications that the PLO might be willing to take a back seat in the preliminary stages of negotiations, leaving it to Palestinian leaders from Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip since it believes that any Palestinians from the occupied territories would inevitably be a PLO supporter.

The PLO has welcomed a statement by President Bush, immediately after the Gulf war, calling for a peace settlement based on U.N. resolutions enshrining the concept of "land-in-exchange for peace." The organisation has, since then, signalled flexibility in peace talks.

"When they talk of non-PLO people they are talking about non-existent Palestinians," said a senior PLO official.

## Kabbani — A bridge between two worlds

By Suzie Mackenzie

WE HAVE certain things in common, Rana Kabbani and I. We are both married, in our 30s, with two small children, and we live in London. We work with broadly the same tool, language, she as a historian and essayist, the author of *Letter to Christendom*; I as a journalist. And we would both, I think, call ourselves feminists.

But perhaps it is true that our differences characterise us more exactly. I am a Londoner, born and raised; I have never lived anywhere else. She is a Muslim, born in Syria but brought up in Syria, New York, Indonesia and Washington, the eldest daughter in a family for generations accustomed to affluence and influence, well read, multi-lingual and with extensive experience of cultures other than her own. To be a Muslim, she says, is to have religion: "I do believe in God. I read the Koran as a way to inner peace. I fast in Ramadan. My son has been circumcised." But more than this it is a way of life, a cultural identity, her birthright, the one immutable fact of her existence, apart from her sex, which travels with her.

We sat in Kabbani's South Kensington home and we talked and laughed at each other's stories. She showed me how to make Persian pilaf, how you fold a napkin over the saucer and secure it with a cup so that it absorbs the extra moisture in the rice. How you have to let it burn a little because the crisp bits on the bottom are always the best. As we talked later, with her children, Jasmine and Alexander, playing around us, it never occurred to me that this familiarity was odd. I accepted that what she calls "the common bond of humanity" gripped us more firmly than any notion of separate-ness.

Passion and prejudice, Kabbani says, have always epitomised the west's attitude to Islam. But more than this, at the end of the 20th century, "Arab-hating remains the last permissible form of racism." The image of the Muslim may once have been exotic and erotic, "the lecherous oriental", a product of the Victorian mind rooted in the repressive sexuality of the 19th century, "where east was portrayed in pornographic terms and in a language of contempt, part fantasy, part foil to the western idea of woman as chaste angel."

It became, she maintains, a way of justifying the image of the Muslim as "barbaric savage," lost without the west's civilising influence. And this patronising attitude, this assumption of superior-

ity, persists today, she would say, in the lumping together of 800 million Muslims in the single stereotype of fanatical fundamentalist. Is it a vested interest of the west to insist on this gross simplification of Islam? Why do we work so confidently with this caricature?

After I left Kabbani, I sat down and made a list of the image of the Muslim conveyed to me by my culture. And this is what I came up with. Aladdin, Sinbad, Scheherazade. The Death of a Princess, the Arab as terrorist, the oil-rich sheikhs, the book-burning mullahs of Bradford. And so when Kabbani says that in British culture "Muslims are addressed only emotionally by people who address everything else intellectually, a bile comes oozing out which I find startling and this is not even conscious," I cannot answer her rebuke. I have to agree that the Gulf war "was a terrible way to punish a man, by demolishing a country." She believes that "for politicians in the west, the most dangerous thing is to portray Iraqis as normal human beings. Far better to see them as people who don't matter, don't suffer. If they are Arabs, somehow they must deserve it. People want to believe their prejudices are there for a good reason."

And I know she is right on at least one point. Racism is not a fact of human existence. It is a response, a pattern of thought. Perhaps we are all racists until we learn how not to be. It is a hard and emotive subject, this racism, especially for the British who pride themselves on their liberal tradition, their even-handedness. But this is not Kabbani's experience. Some might say, why doesn't she return to Syria? "I am an important person to have in this culture, to challenge your assumptions. The immigrants who make up Britain can revive your culture in all kinds of ways through the cultures they come from."

But for an exile, living here for the past 10 years, her experience, she says, is a choice between assimilation and confrontation. Confrontation is the mullahs in Bradford who say, "We don't want you because you don't want us." Assimilation, a more common choice, is built on self-denial. "You come to a culture that is sneering of your own and almost immediately you find yourself using the clichés and prejudices of that host culture. There is a great pressure to conform to western audiences what they have been

led to believe. And you are re-wired for that. Britain has had 300 years of colonial power, secular power, affluent power. That determines you. I come from a world that is poorer, less powerful, that has had much suffering. And I owe it emotionally to that world to look at it more profoundly, honestly. But I do not want to denounce it completely. If I do that, who am I? I am lost to both worlds. My history determines me."

She was 16 when she found herself at Georgetown University in Washington, where her father was the Syrian ambassador. It was a privileged life, of course, but there were other ways in which it differed from those of her peers. As a Muslim, she was not allowed to date boys. You mean there was no sex? "Absolutely not, no. I was brought up to believe you had to be a virgin when you married." This was 1976. Well, did you kiss any boys? Dr Kabbani, who is by no means shy, becomes suddenly shy. "I can't answer that." But surely you can tell me if you kissed them? "All right," she says. "Yes, I did. Probably."

Listening to the tape later, I wince at my insistence on this silly point. Then I notice that it made her laugh.

I took her only two years in Washington to cover a four-year English Literature course and to get her degree. And then, one evening, she went to a poetry reading by the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who had entered the country on a 24-hour visa. "It was like meeting Byron," she says. "Or Mayakovsky." He symbolised to her all the injustices that had afflicted the Palestinian people. She fell instantly in love. Within 24 hours she had left Washington for Beirut. Are you saying that you met him, married him and left in 24 hours? You didn't know him. "To me it seemed a long time."

What did you say to your parents? "I said, I am getting married." Wasn't this a bit strange? "A bit dramatic, perhaps. Ten days might have been more usual. But he could only stay one day. And since we couldn't date, what was the point of being engaged for six months?"

In the devastated city of Beirut, she found herself in a tiny flat with no electricity or running water. Every couple of days they had to move because her husband's life was under constant threat. "He was like all the recluses you hear about. Kind and generous but very sexist. Had we had a totally different

life, in a totally different city, perhaps it could have worked. It never had a chance. It lasted five years."

She should never have gone to Cambridge. It was 1980, she was divorced, alone, knew no one in England. This, of course, is why she came. And she had an idea for her thesis, Europe's Myths of Orient: Devises and Rule, which she acknowledges was influenced by the Palestinian intellectual Edward Said's book *Orientalism*. She hated the place, its xenophobia, its insularity, its patriarchal values. It shocked her. When she finished her thesis it took the great patriarchs three years to award her a PhD. They couldn't decide if she deserved it.

And now I am going to tell you another story because it seems a good place to end and because it has nothing to do with race or the Middle East or, indeed, passion. And you can decide if it has to do with prejudice and what sort of prejudice this might be.

When Kabbani was in Cambridge she became depressed and, she says, "accident prone" and one day she slipped on the ice and broke her back. She was in hospital and she overheard the doctor say to her lover of two years — "The man I was going to marry" — a prominent intellectual, that he feared she would be paralysed for life. "My lover came into the room and said, 'I can't handle this, it's over.' The week before, my aunt had been killed by Israeli bombing in Beirut. I had just learned that I may never walk again. He said, 'Tomorrow I am going to France and when I return I am taking a sabbatical in America.' And that's what he did."

Some time later, when she was up and walking again, he returned. They could renew their relationship, he said. And what did she say? "Fuck off or I'll cut off your balls."

In Letter to Christendom, Rana Kabbani has written a dispassionate and reasoned essay about Muslim culture for the westerner. To her, I would say, don't believe totally in the *don't* stereotype of the British. Perhaps she knows this already. She is now married to an Englishman, the Middle East historian Patrick Seale who, like her, she says, "bridges the two worlds," having been born and brought up in Damascus. But I, with my knowledge of the Middle East, have few Muslim friends. And I would like to believe that there exists, in Rana Kabbani, at least the potential for one more — The Guardian



## Graham Greene, wry commentator on the underdog

Reuter

LONDON — Graham Greene was a storyteller whose life and novels seemed to blur the distinction between fiction and reality. "I see myself as one of my characters," he admitted, though with typical ambiguity declining to say which one.

Through works like *Brighton Rock*, *The Third Man*, and *The Power and the Glory*, he won millions of readers with world-weary but compassionate comments on the underdog.

Born of middle-class parents in the town of Berkhamsted, north-west of London, Greene was still at school when he began to travel along unconventional paths.

His experiences included Russian roulette, alcohol, drugs, psychoanalysis, a flirtation with Communism and the British secret service. All these, tempered by the Roman Catholicism he adopted while at Oxford University, provided material for some 60 literary works.

Greene began work in London in 1926 as a sub-editor on the *Times*, leaving the newspaper to become a full-time writer on the strength of a mildly successful first novel, *The Man Within*.

Eight more works before *World War II* enhanced a growing reputation and in 1940 he brought out *The Power and the Glory*.

Depicting the struggle of a whisky-soaked priest in Mexico, it shows a soul tormented but finding ultimate salvation.

Greene returned to that theme repeatedly. "The sense of failure is much more human than the sense of success," he said.

In 1934 Greene, already married with a son and daughter, left his family behind for a trek through Liberia. It was the first of many such foreign adventures.

During the war he worked in the ministry of information under Kim Philby, who was later exposed as a spy for the Soviet Union. Greene also became literary editor of *The Spectator* magazine and worked in the Foreign Office, which sent him on a secret mission to Sierra Leone.

He used the West African country as the setting for *The Heart of the Matter* — a novel which combines a gripping story, human tragedy and humour.

Greene had more screen adaptations than any other modern author. He was translated into 27 languages and sales exceeded 20 million. But he was convinced to the last of his own failure.

Born on October 2, 1904, Greene was the fourth of six children of a headmaster. His younger brother Hugh was for 10 years director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Greene attended his father's school at Berkhamsted. At 19 he was playing Russian roulette with a loaded revolver, explaining it as part of his "lifelong war against boredom."

His introduction to Roman Catholicism by his future wife Vivien steadied him but also raised questions of guilt and responsibility posed in nearly all his books.

The *Quiet American* in 1955 presciently highlighted American involvement in Vietnam. The *Comedians* exposed the savagery of the Duvalier regime in Haiti, and *The Honorary Consul* depicted a bungled kidnap by urban guerrillas fighting military dictatorship in Paraguay.

His writings made him uncomfortable in many countries he had visited, while his brief communist party membership and his meetings with Cuba's Fidel Castro and Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam aroused official suspicion in the United States.

Through regular visits and a close friendship with Panamanian President Omar Torrijos, he developed a deep interest in the affairs of Central America. He strongly condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama in December 1989. "The United States has no business interfering in Panama," he said.

What General Manuel Noriega had done in Panama was not "half as bad" as Washington's record in Central America, he said.

Despite frequently tropical locations, Greene's books were marked by a bleakness of atmosphere, a sense of disillusion. To Greene "there is an icicle at the heart of the writer."

It was this frigidity which was said to have barred Greene from receiving the Nobel Prize for literature, endowed for "the most outstanding work of an idealistic tendency."

His compassion for the underdog was best seen in *Our Man in Havana*, a tragic-comedy about an incompetent spy in pre-Castro Cuba, and in *The Human Factor*, a late work about a secret agent tempted by love into betrayal.

Greene's steady output included short stories, memoirs, travel writings and biographies, plus half a dozen plays which achieved no more than passing success.

Greene told friends that *The Captain and the Enemy* would be his last book. But he was said to have begun work on one about dreams. He had started noting down his dreams when undergoing psychoanalysis at 16, and took up the habit again in old age.

A shy, private man, Greene refused to appear on television. He lived in Antibes on the French Riviera, the setting for *May We Borrow Your Husband* and other short stories.

Britain made him a companion of literature in 1984 and a member of the elite Order of Merit in 1986.

In March 1988 a French court found him guilty of libel and fined him 300,000 francs (then about \$42,800) for writing *J'Accuse*, a pamphlet which alleged criminal activity and corruption on the Riviera and in Nice.

In 1990 Jacques Medecin, the mayor on the receiving end of Greene's accusations, resigned as mayor of Nice and his financial affairs came under official investigation.

In December 1984, France made Greene a commander of arts and letters, one of its highest awards for excellence in the arts.

In April the same year his novel *The Tenth Man*, set in France after its 1945 liberation from Nazi occupation, appeared. Lost for 40 years, it was discovered in a Hollywood vault.

In February 1990 the United States waived a law barring entry to people with certain political beliefs, but Greene's publisher Max Reinhardt said the author had no plans to apply for a visa.

## Women in black, men in pain, children in rubble, a cup of tea and a prayer



Arouba Abdul Hamid (right) lost seven members of her family in the Amirya shelter. She and Fatima Mutlaq (left), who lost her 17-year-old son in the same attack, tell the story of their families' fate to visitors. (Photo by Mariam Shahin).

The writer Mariam Shahin recently returned from a trip to Baghdad.

IRAQIS HAVE mourned more in the last decade than most people will in a lifetime. Indeed for more Iraqis the last decade has been a lifetime.

The colour of mourning — black, as has been everywhere. On the antennas of some homes fly little black flags, black cloth banners with names of loved ones who were killed are hung at the entrance of Iraqi homes, and black clothing worn by Iraqi women, whether in Western dress or traditional abayas (black veils) is evident everywhere.

The expression on the faces of Iraqis remains stoic, most do not betray the anger of a people condemned by the world to punishment without a trial.

Most youngsters, in this capital city of 4 million, have gone back to school, but most of their fathers and more often than not their brothers have not come back from the war front and many of the families have not as yet had word of their fate.

Um Raed is a Muslim woman, a mother of five, two of her sons are missing in action, she does not know where to turn, this reporter found her praying in the Church of Saint Mary, a 350-year-old Armenian Orthodox church in the centre of Baghdad. Clutching the bars of a memorial to Armenian children killed by the Ottoman Turks she weeps in silence. These were victims, in another century, another war, all were someone's children, like her own.

In the middle of Ramadan, Iraqis show great tolerance for those who smoke and eat in public. Decades of secular rule, a feature of the political system most Iraqis seem happy with, differentiate this city from other Arab capitals.

While most residents of Baghdad have water and electricity for several hours a day, over one million Baghdadis don't have either.

In the Athamia District where a bloc of homes was totally destroyed by allied bombings, residents scoop up their drinking water from an open pipe in the ground.

Children play in the rubble where forty people found their death Feb. 6 at 8:30 p.m. The bodies have naturally been removed, all that can be seen is furniture in ruins, kitchen utensils, some school books and torn up clothing. All neighbours remember the hour and the date of the bombing. Passing each pile of rubble Athamia resident Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil says "this was a family of five, this was a family of seven..." pointing at the different piles of rubble along the road.

The first of the seven homes destroyed belonged to a Jordanian family. "This is where Abu Hatham lived," said Khalil, "he had four children."

In the middle of downtown Baghdad a somewhat hysterical woman approaches a Red Crescent bus in the middle of the street. "Can you help me? Can you help me?" she asks. "My son-in-law is missing in action, please help me."

A Red Crescent worker gives her an address and a name she can contact, her dark rimmed eyes betray her state of total exhaustion.

The woman is Lebanese, she is thousands of kilometres away from home. "She probably fled Lebanon because of the war," says the Red Crescent official, "no place is safe anymore, war could break out anywhere."

In a candle lit Chaldean church in the upper class Karada district, women in black come to mass to pray for peace and the return of their men from the front. Most of the people look well to do and in their district water and electricity was available before other districts in Baghdad, largely as a result of private generators. But Iraq's Christian community of one million has been no less affected than the rest of Iraq by this war and 8-year-long war with Iran before it.

"We are all Iraqis and all of Iraq was hit, they (the allies) did not destroy all the homes directly but rather indirectly... there is no Christianity in the West and as for the Arab partners of the allies, they are not Muslims," said staff nurse Wardah Abdo, an Iraqi Christian working at the Yarmouk Hospital.

It may be hard for Iraqis to retain their faith under the present circumstances, but their hospitality is a characteristic which they have not lost.

Arouba Abdul Hameed, 30, who has lost seven members of her family in the Amirya shelter, still goes to the fenced-in location where her mother, sisters and nieces were burned to



Umam Raed is a Muslim woman, a mother of five, two of her sons are missing in action. Her prayers are not limited to Islamic shrines. In photo she is praying at the Church of Saint Mary. (photo by Mariam Shahin).

death. Her eyes are red but she is not aggressive to foreigners, even Americans are not shown hostility.

As she and Fatima Mutlaq, who lost her 17-year-old son in the shelter bombing, tell the story of their families' fate to visiting NGOs, Arouba's father comes out of his home to speak to the visitors, "please come in for tea," he says.

What really goes on in the minds of survivors of this strange war is hard to tell. Ghassan Mohammad Khader, 18, is a young Jordanian whose

four sisters and mother died in the Amirya shelter. At night he cries himself to sleep. His father, a biology professor at the University of Baghdad, is friendly to visitors. He is well composed, most people would never know that he tried to be a soldier in the Iraqi army.

Despite what is evidently a human tragedy condoned by the international community, people in Baghdad have retained the grandeur that only a people with a history of survival could have.



Home of a Jordanian family which was destroyed in the Allied bombing of Al Athamia District. (Photo by Mariam Shahin)



Children playing in the rubble of the houses in Al Athamia District in Baghdad. (Photo by Mariam Shahin).

## Trials

(Continued from page 1)

Human rights organisations said up to 40 people, mostly Palestinians, were killed by Kuwaitis on suspicion of helping Iraqi troops during their occupation of Kuwait.

Abdullah Al Kandari, a Kuwait air force colonel negotiating the return of Kuwaiti prisoners of war, told the news conference in Kuwait that the penalty for war crimes detainees found guilty of murder would be death by hanging or by firing squad.

Kuwaiti officials accused the Iraqis of atrocities including murder, rape and torture.

According to Col. Kandari, 1,082 Kuwaitis died under the occupation, including 153 children under the age of 13, 57 mentally ill people and 120 babies whose incubators were turned off.

He said 33 foetuses had been aborted after rapes by Iraqis. About 5,000 Kuwaiti civilians and soldiers are still missing, many of them believed held in Iraq. Kuwait will demand their return at talks in the Saudi capital Riyadh Thursday between the allies and Iraq, officials said.

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هنا عند الأصل



## Sports

## Platini hides his magic wand

PARIS (R) — Where Michel Platini hides his magic wand, no one knows, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to believe his denials of its existence.

How else can you explain the way he has transformed a mediocre French national team, wallowing in lack of self-esteem, into a confident, thrusting outfit of world-beaters?

All this in the space of little more than two years and using, give or take a name or three, the same players.

"This team may not have the style and technique of past French national sides but it plays with its heart and its guts and it wants to win," Platini said.

It is also in a state of grace, doubtless induced by some Platini spell, as shown by its record in the last two years — played 15, won 12, drawn 3, goals for 32, against 8.

With five wins out of five in qualifying Group 1 of the European Championship, the French already have one foot in next year's finals in Sweden.

That marks quite a change for a team which failed to reach last year's World Cup finals because it could not beat Cyprus back in October 1988, a fateful match which saw trainer Henri Michel fired and succeeded in the hot seat by Platini.

"I have no magic wand," he said on cue as he took charge. His tone has not changed much

since. "I'm not sure exactly where we are," he said after his team's 5-0 win over Albania in Paris last Saturday. "But what I do now is to beat us you have to be strong."

The team's record is certainly more impressive than its play, which lacks the brilliance and improvisation of that magnificent 1980s side in which Platini the player reigned supreme while his supporting cast, Alain Giresse and Jean Tigana, caressed the ball and cajoled the opposition into submission.

But though they tend neither to dominate nor delight, they do just keep on winning. In the past two seasons, five teams which reached the World Cup finals have played France and all have lost, including world champions West Germany.

"My team is getting better," Platini said. "We took 10 points out of 10 in the qualifiers and it would be difficult to do better. But there's still a lot of hard work to do."

As a player, the magic in Platini's feet was obvious to all. As national selector — his official title — the wizardry is less visible though no less effective.

Only three of the side which faced Albania were introduced to the national team by Platini. But what he has succeeded in doing is to give his players a coherent tactical framework and an unquestioning belief in themselves.

"They have learned one basic thing," Platini said. "The French team is not the federation's nor is it mine ... this French team is theirs. It belongs to the players."

Apart from Marseille's Jean-Pierre Papin, regarded as one of the best strikers in Europe — many would say the best — France have no real stars.

Platini has aimed to form a tightly-knit squad and he has been repaid with the emergence of several of his relatively unknown proteges as accomplished internationals.

Midfielder Franck Sauzeau, who grows in stature with each game and who cracked home two direct free kicks Platini-style against the Albanians, is the symbol of the new French team with his all-out commitment and hunger for success.

Midfielder Franck Sauzeau, who grows in stature with each game and who cracked home two direct free kicks Platini-style against the Albanians, is the symbol of the new French team with his all-out commitment and hunger for success.

Under Platini's benevolent umbrella, keeper Bruno Martini has developed into one of Europe's best while Laurent Blanc has blossomed as a classy sweeper and Basile Boli has become a stopper few strikers would willingly engage in battle on a dark night at the Parc Des Princes.

Oldtimers from the Platini playing era, skipper Manuel Amoros and Luis Fernandez, add that vital sprinkling of experience



Michel Platini

to the French squad. But Platini's master stroke was the recall of enfant terrible Eric Cantona as Papin's striking partner.

Suspended for a year after crudely insulting Michel, Platini brought him back and nurtured him into scoring seven goals in the next eight games.

The brooding, hot-tempered Cantona has a reputation as a trainer's nightmare. But for Platini, who keeps faith with him even when he cannot get a place in his Marseille team, he behaves like a lamb.

It's one more bit of proof that Platini really has a wand hidden away somewhere.

## Holmes successful in return to ring

HOLLYWOOD, Florida (AP) — Larry Holmes came back from a layoff of more than three years and needed 123 seconds to get the job done.

The 41-year-old former heavyweight champion stopped Tim "Doc" Anderson at 2:03 of the first round after knocking him down twice.

The 32-year-old Anderson had been the fourth comeback opponent for George Foreman in 1987. Anderson lasted into the fourth round against Foreman, now 42, who will challenge Evander Holyfield for the heavyweight title on April 19.

"I've got determination," Holmes said before the fight.

The man who was the heavyweight champion from 1978 until 1983 certainly was determined against the smaller, outclassed Anderson.

Holmes hurt Anderson with four right hands to the body 55 seconds into the fight, then knocked him down with two right hands to the body at 1:28.

The end came when Anderson was knocked down again from a right to the body, a right to the head and a right to the body. He got up at the count of five but referee Eddie Eckert stopped it.

A ringside doctor said Anderson suffered probable broken ribs on the left side.

Holmes weighed 236 pounds, by far the heaviest of his career, and outweighed Anderson by

33.75 pounds. Anderson had weighed 210 when he fought Foreman, who weighed 245.5.

After his postfight news conference, Holmes was involved in a brawl with former opponent Trevor Berbick that spilled onto the street in front of the Diplomat Hotel. No injuries were reported and no arrests made.

Holmes has said he would not again fight Berbick, against whom he successfully defended his crown in 1981. Berbick later, in front of television cameras, blamed a female friend of Holmes for breaking up Berbick's marriage.

Holmes, back in his suite, heard about the comments, found Berbick in front of the hotel and chased him. Punches were exchanged before police intervened.

Both men returned to the front of the hotel, where Berbick shouted, "Everybody saw Larry Holmes kick me and punch me."

At that point, an enraged Holmes bounded over two cars and landed on top of Berbick feet-first before police intervened again.

Holmes hopes to follow the comeback trail of Foreman but hopes to get a title fight much sooner.

It is too early to tell whether Holmes' schedule is too ambitious and whether his goal is possible to reach.

## Evans ends U.S. swimming event with fourth victory

FEDERAL WAY, Washington — Triple Olympic champion Janet Evans left the field behind in the 1,500-metre freestyle to claim her fourth victory and earn top performer honours at the U.S. Swimming Spring National Championships.

On the final day of the five-day meeting, the 19-year-old Evans swam the fourth fastest 1,500 metres in U.S. history to win in 16 minutes 11.22 seconds, more than 12 seconds faster than her nearest competitor.

Evans previously scored victories in the 400- and 800-metre freestyle and 400-metre individual medley — her three gold medal events at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"It was a fun meet, but I'm glad it's over," Evans said. "I'm tired and I need a little break."

Nicole Haislett gave Evans a run for her money for top performer honours by claiming her third victory of the meeting with a 2:16.34 win in the 200-metre individual medley.

Haislett, world champion in the 100-metre freestyle, won the

100- and 200-metre freestyle events earlier in the week.

Former world record holder David Wharton won the men's 200-metre individual medley in 2:01.99, outstripping Ron Karnaugh over the final 10 metres. Karnaugh clocked 2:02.04 and Mike Barrowman, who had won the 200- and 100-metre breaststrokes, finished third.

Angel Myers Martino, 23, won her first national title since her suspension from U.S. swimming for testing positive for steroids before the Seoul Olympics.

Martino, who made her return at this meeting after more than two years away from competition, won the 50-metre freestyle in 25.88.

"Winning a national title gives me incentive to continue training," Myers Martino said. "There was a time I wasn't going to come back but now I want to prove something."

The five-day served as U.S. qualifying for the Pan Pacific Championships, Pan American Games and World University Games later this year.

## Norwegian wins Milk Run

BOSTON (AP) — Are Nakkim beat fellow Norwegian John Halvorsen by two seconds with a sprint in the final 100 metres in winning the Boston Milk Run in steamy 80-degree-Fahrenheit (27-degree-Celsius) temperatures.

## Juventus looking for pay-off from Baggio

By Reuters

ROBERTO Baggio, the world's most expensive player, will want to erase the memory of an unhappy weekend when Juventus met Barcelona in a Cup Winners' Cup semifinal first leg Wednesday.

Baggio had a traumatic return to his beloved former club Fiorentina Saturday, refusing to take a penalty for which he got slammed by the press and being substituted midway through the match.

Baggio was booed by Fiorentina fans as he left the pitch. Luigi de Agostini took the spot kick which was saved and Juventus went down 1-0.

Coach Gigi Maifredi is convinced that after a poor reception from Fiorentina fans, Baggio will be able to forget his old club and produce his best for Juventus. "Baggio can now become fully Juventus," Maifredi said.

Baggio joined Juventus for a record \$13 million last summer, the move sparking riots among Fiorentina fans. Fellow Italian World Cup star

Salvatore Schillaci may be left out in Barcelona as Juventus aim to bolster their midfield. The top scorer in the 1990 World Cup, he has not scored an Italian League goal since November.

Juventus are eight points adrift of leaders Sampdoria in fourth place in the league.

Sampdoria dropped a point Sunday, losing Cagliari fighting back from 2-0 down to force a 2-2 draw and leave Sampdoria's Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov unhappy.

## European soccer

"Now we'll go home and cry. Not only have we lost a point, we have ruined our image," he said.

"A good team like Sampdoria, on top of the league and with so many great players, simply cannot give away a point in that manner."

Internazionale, second two points behind Sampdoria, travel to Sporting Lisbon for their UEFA Cup semifinal first leg filled with confidence after the return from injury of German

defender Andreas Brehme helped inspire a 5-1 rout of Bari Saturday.

Roma, who play Danish club Brondby in the other UEFA Cup semifinal, featured in a stormy 1-1 draw with Lazio Saturday in which three players were sent off.

In Spain, Barcelona prepared for the visit of Juventus by winning 3-1 to win at Real Burgos to maintain their four-point lead over Atletico Madrid.

"Our immediate aim is to settle the league as soon as possible, and this victory helped a lot," said assistant Barcelona coach Carlos Rexach.

Outgoing champions Real Madrid lost 3-1 Espanol and slumped to ninth place, denting their chances of qualifying for next season's UEFA Cup.

Germany's Bayern Munich shrugged off some poor recent form with a 2-1 win at Bochum Saturday.

They were without World Cup defender Jurgen Kohler but he will return for Wednesday's European Cup semifinal first leg at home to Red Star Belgrade.

Bayern stay third in the Bundesliga, three points behind leaders Kaiserslautern who beat Bayer Uerdingen 2-0.

French champions Marseille enjoyed a free weekend ahead of Wednesday's European Cup semifinal with Spartak in Moscow.

Coach Raymond Goethals has recalled veteran midfielder Jean Tigana in the absence of the injured Bernard Pardo.

Prolific striker Jean-Pierre

Papin and English winger Chris Waddle have both recovered from injury and will play.

Spartak, who have already disposed of Napoli and Real Madrid on their way to the semifinals, have just returned from a good-will visit to Japan and report no injury problems.

England's Manchester United drew 1-1 with Aston Villa in the first division Saturday ahead of this week's Cup Winner's Cup semifinal with Legia Warsaw.

Midfielder Mike Phelan limped off Saturday but will be fit while Paul Ince and Clayton Blackmore should be available after injury. United captain Bryan Robson is suspended.

Suspensions will deprive Legia of goalkeeper Maciej Szczesny and defender Dariusz Kubicki while crucial defender Krzysztof Budka and midfielder Andrzej Latka are both injured.

Brondby, the first Danish team ever to reach the last-four of a European competition, seem to be having a bout of nerves ahead of their UEFA Cup tie with Roma.

They drew 2-2 with Aalborg in the league Saturday, having led 3-0.

Aalborg knocked them out of the domestic cup last week, Brondby's first defeat to a Danish team for a year.

In the Netherlands, 1988 European champions PSV Eindhoven look set to win the Dutch title after a 4-1 win over reigning league champions Ajax Amsterdam Sunday, helped by two goals from Brazilian striker Romario.

## 7 nations still bidding to host 1998 World Cup

ZURICH (R) — Brazil, England, France, India, Morocco, Portugal and Switzerland are all still in the running to stage the 1998 World Cup soccer tournament, the Federal International Football Association (FIFA) said Monday.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren told Reuters that at the end of the second phase which closed at midnight Friday, only Chile and Nigeria of the original nine bidders had not confirmed or withdrawn their applications.

Morocco is aiming to be the first African country to stage soccer's top tournament after being narrowly defeated by the United States to host the 1994 competition.

## UEFA rejects German appeal

GENEVA (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) said Monday it has rejected an appeal from the German Football Federation (DFB) against a fine imposed for fan violence at a European championship tie last October.

UEFA's control and disciplinary committee had imposed the 10,000 Swiss franc (\$7,000) fine on the DFB after German fans rioted at a Group 5 qualifying match in Luxembourg on Oct. 31.

The DFB was also ordered to pay the costs of the appeal, amounting to a further 5,000 francs (\$3,500).

Reacting to the ruling, the DFB said it had not been given enough support from German state authorities in its battle against the hooligans.

"The DFB does not feel guilty in the affair," spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach said.

Niersbach said the federation had still not managed to get the names and addresses of the 44 fans arrested in Luxembourg.

UEFA also rejected a plea by Welsh international defender Clayton Blackmore against a four-match ban for violent play in another European championship qualifier in Luxembourg.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
1990 Tribune Media Services Inc.

## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K7 ♠J86542 ♠9753 ♠K  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKQ9 ♠7652 ♠952 ♠83  
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Void ♠10 ♠QJ109754 ♠Q764  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AQ1052 ♠KQ7 ♠J ♠K652  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?

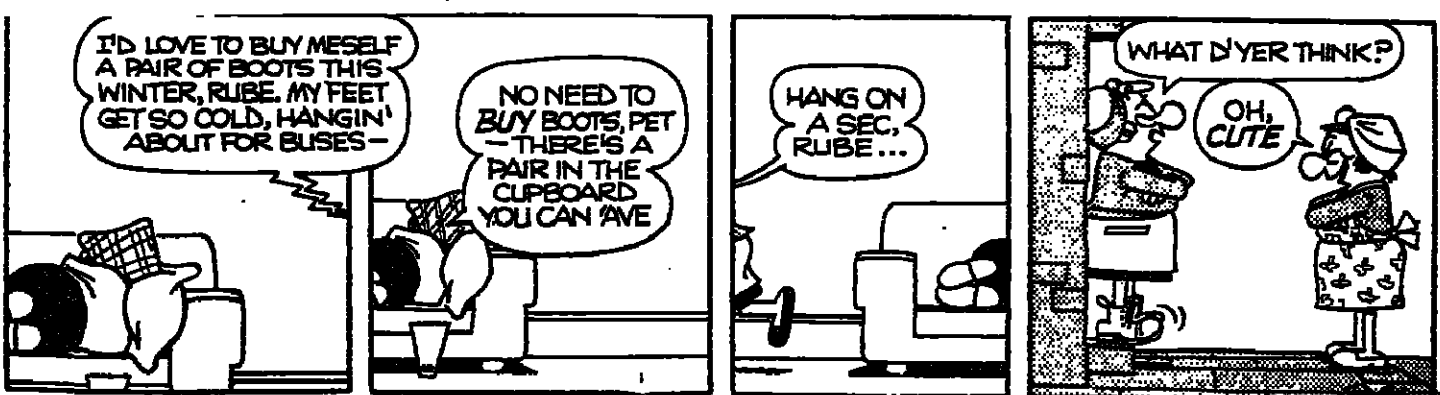
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A6 ♠Q1062 ♠KQ10943 ♠5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKQ10952 ♠J6 ♠Q3 ♠107  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

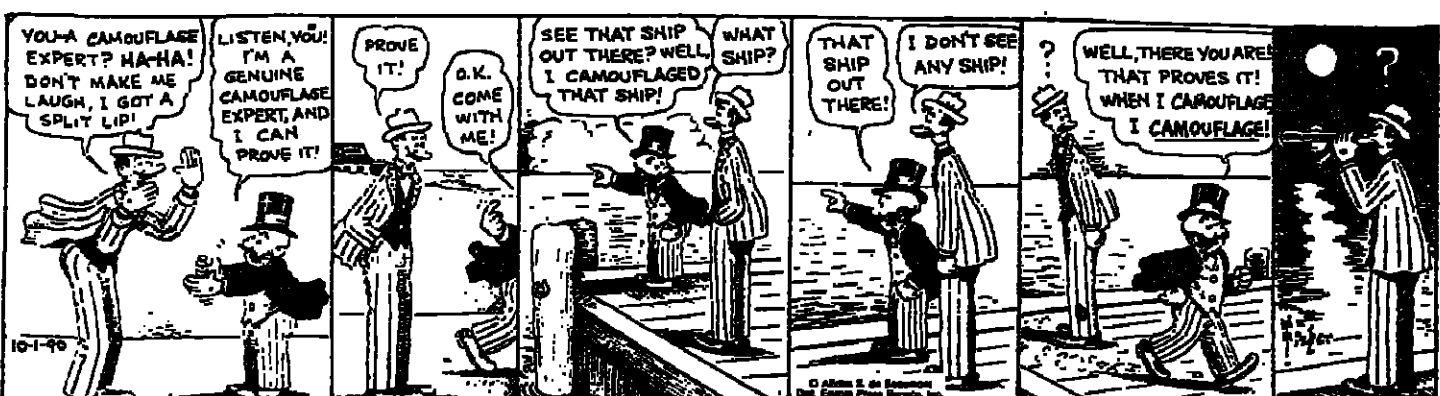
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 9, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Enjoy the longtime pleasures that have proven satisfactory in the past and use your spare moments to think how you can best build a firmer foundation for yourself in the coming months.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your work and your desire to get out and play are at loggerheads and it's necessary that you schedule your hours very wisely if you are to avoid trouble.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your financial affairs and your personal desires seem to be in conflict and you would be unwise to take any chances where your assets are concerned.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are a number of interesting allies who could bring you pleasure so don't be so wrapped up in some tiresome family matter that you neglect.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your time to make sure that you are the one who does need to both attend to private worries as well as get out with friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now have it in your power to show your friends that you are fond of them and not so interested in the materialistic that they take second place.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have some outside obligations to meet that do not at all jive with your personal desires but try to so arrange your time to attend to them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October

22) You have some secret concerns that it is best not to mention to anyone but try to study some new methods by which you can shortly change them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the time to be sure that you do with friends who have your interests at heart rather than concentrating upon wowing some bigwigs.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You certainly need to make sure you do nothing that could in anyway stir up the enmity of or opposition from who is in some exalted position.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Many new ideas come to you now and you would be wise to get rid of pressing tasks early so you can get off to new interests and gain from them.

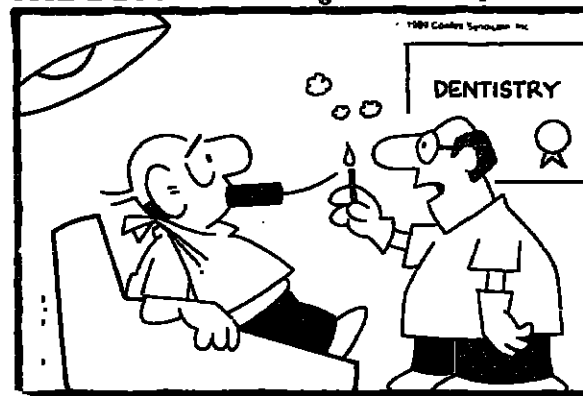
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you like to do the most should be the outlets in which you engage at this time merely avoiding shirking any projects at such essential moments.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An argument between one of your household and an outsider can threaten to take away from some of the accord you have built up with each of them.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has a true gregarious quality that is going to require much contact with many different persons which will cause an element of jealousy among some of their close associates. This child will require training in modern ideas, methods and scientific principles of this new age.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"There are better ways to do a root canal, but this way costs less."

## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IRROG

TILOP

SHOCUL

ENBLIM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

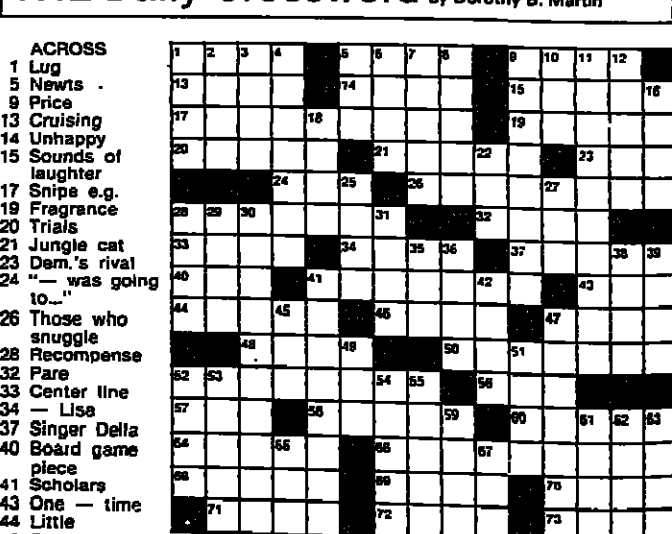
Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday's Jumbles: JUROR LAUGH COSTLY MUFFIN

Answer: How the interrupter listens— ONLY WITH HIS MOUTH

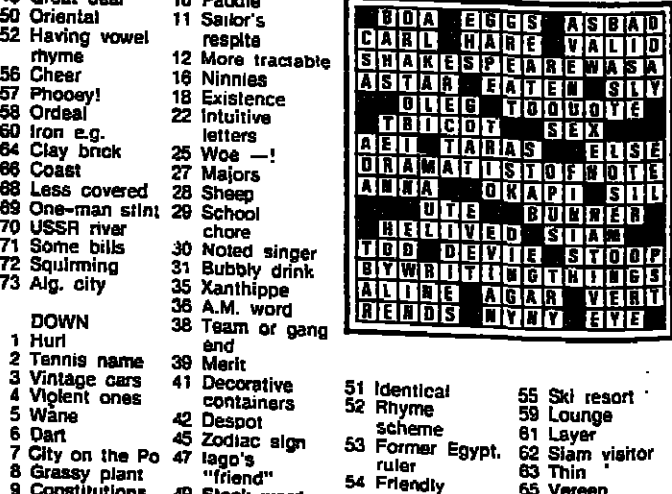
(Answers tomorrow)

## THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin



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Saturday's Puzzle Solved:





## 12 banks agree to lend Investcorp \$250 m

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain-based Investcorp E.C., which is owned by Gulf shareholders, said Monday 12 international banks had agreed to finance a \$250 million loan for its main holding company in Luxembourg.

The three-year Eurodollar loan facility for Investcorp S.A., was priced at 65 basis points per annum over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate, including the underwriting fee, the bank said in a statement.

The loan, which is being coordinated by Bankers Trust Company and J.P. Morgan, was increased to \$250 million from an initially planned \$200 million due to strong interest, the statement said.

It was the fifth medium-term syndicated financing arranged by Investcorp in six years.

Owned by shareholders in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Investcorp channels private Arab investment into Western companies.

Its 1990 net profit rose by 28 per cent to a record \$66.3 million despite the Gulf crisis.

## U.S. study shows law protection level to jobless

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing new unemployment claims jumped to the highest level in eight years last month, the government said in a report dampening hopes of a quick end to the recession.

Meanwhile, a private study said a smaller percentage of jobless Americans received benefits in 1990 than during any other recession year since World War II.

The bleak jobless claims data from the Labour Department showed applications topping a half-million for the third straight week.

The separate study showing that only 37 per cent of the nation's jobless received unemployment benefits last year brought renewed calls for the U.S. administration action.

President George Bush needs to "take a trip beyond the beltway and discover the naked truth about unemployment in 1991," Tom Downey, who has introduced legislation to shore up the unemployment insurance system, said as the report came out.

"These are human tragedies — working Americans and their families coping with the financial and psychological strains of unemployment," Downey said.

His legislation would force states to ease eligibility requirements for assistance, and reinstate the extended benefits programme, so that the unemployed people could receive benefits longer than the current 26-week limit.

With jobs so scarce, Downey and others have complained, Americans who get laid off need more than 26 weeks to find another source of income.

As of February, more than 1.6 million had lost their jobs since last June.

The jobless claims report showed that 513,000 people filed new claims for the week ending March 23. It was the third straight month that the number topped a half-million — a streak that had not happened in more than eight years.

The 543,000 total was a 33,000 increase over the previous week and the biggest one-week level since January 1988, the Labour Department said.

The separate study on unemployment insurance said the 37 per cent of jobless Americans receiving coverage last year was a record low for a year in which the U.S. economy was in a recession. "This low level of protection... is unparalleled," the report said.

During 1975, for instance, when the country also was in a recession, 75 per cent of the nation's unemployed received benefits, the report said.

The report is the latest in a string of criticisms of the unemployment insurance system, which was created in the 1930s as a cushion for jobless Americans during lean economic times and as a way to keep money flowing through the economy.

## Saudis seen losing money on sale of jet fuel stocks

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia may only raise half of what it paid when it sells surplus jet fuel stocks amassed in. The expectation of a prolonged ground battle in the Gulf war, oil industry sources say.

"They (the Saudis) will get a beating on that, but storing the stuff also costs a lot," a Gulf-based oil trader said.

Saudi Arabia banned fuel exports after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August and channelled all its jet fuel and diesel oil output to meeting the needs of the U.S.-led military coalition.

The kingdom also bought jet fuel and diesel from the spot market to boost stocks.

Gulf-based traders estimate a tonne of jet kerosene cost Saudi Arabia around \$45 in January including freight, due to high prices and strong demand at the time, but the product now fetches around \$22 a tonne when sold out of the Gulf.

The traders said it was difficult to estimate the amount of fuel spent by the allied forces during the Gulf war.

Saudi Arabia bought more than 1.1 million tonnes of jet fuel and gas oil in January from the spot market which it stored on land and on tankers moored offshore.

Jet kerosene is used by fighter planes, turbine-powered warships and some tanks, while gas oil is the basis for diesel oil, used by land-based fighting and transport vehicles.

The Saudi oil refining and marketing arm Samarec included in a sales tender issued last Tuesday 35,000 tonnes of JP-5, a highly specialised fuel used by the United States air force.

"Guess who is going to buy the JP-5," one trader said, suggesting the only possible buyer could be the U.S. air force.

JP-5 was in extremely short supply in the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait as the emirate had the only refineries capable of processing it in the region.

The U.S. military shipped supplies from Singapore and the Mediterranean.

Since mid-March Samarec has issued tenders to sell a total 300,000 tonnes of jet kerosene and 238,000 tonnes of gas oil.

Traders said this could depress prices in the spot market as demand declines at the end of the northern hemisphere winter.

"These tenders will not do any good to middle distillate (gas oil and kerosene) prices in April and May," one oil trader said.

However, Samarec has not yet concluded any kerosene and gas oil supply contracts for the rest of 1991 and the existing contracts expire at the end of April.

As a result, some traders said the Saudi tenders for May should not push prices any lower.

The traders said they did not know when Samarec will start discussions on new kerosene and gas oil contracts.

## Japan analysts see dollar a bit firmer by year-end

TOKYO (R) — Economists in Tokyo, many taken by surprise by the dollar's sudden surge, are warily forecasting the U.S. currency will end the year somewhat above current levels but below last year's highs.

"When we look at the economic fundamentals, we can see a case for a stronger dollar, but not for the dollar panic that's going on now," said Robert Feldman, an economist at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd. "By mid to late this year, the yen may be a bit weaker and the mark about where it is now."

Expectations late last year that a U.S. economic recession and high Japanese interest rates would spell a weaker dollar have been turned on their head by rising confidence in a U.S. economic recovery and growing pessimism about the costs of German unification.

"All together, it's been a complete reversal of what we thought," said Nobuyuki Ueda, a senior economist at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. "The question is, how long will this persist? We don't think it will continue as a steady and rapid yen fall/dollar rise."

Economists said they expected the dollar to finish 1991 above 140 yen but below 150 yen and around 1,700-1,800 marks.

That would be well off Tokyo's 1991 intraday lows so far of 127.40 yen and 1,554 marks and close to its 1990 Tokyo intraday high against the mark of 1,733.

However, it would also be well short of its 1990 intraday high here against the yen of 160.35.

"We don't see it rocket-fuelled to the 160-170 yen range," said Peter Morgan, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd.

Discrepancies in U.S. and Japanese economic cycles and in world interest rates along with worries about the German economy and Soviet political unrest are behind expectations of a stronger dollar.

"There will be a gentle weakening of the yen, mainly because of the discrepancy between the U.S. and Japanese economies," said Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank Ltd. "Japanese economic growth will slow down from now on, and the U.S. economy, while not gaining at such a steep pace, will bottom out and gain."

Probable interest rate differentials also point to a stronger dollar against the yen and the mark.

Economists say the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank is likely to ease rates only a bit more before tightening monetary policy as the economy gathers steam. Japanese and German central bankers, meanwhile, are expected to ease later this year.

Optimism about the U.S. economy may prove to be overdone. If renewed doubt about the strength of the U.S. recovery emerges later this year, it could undermine the dollar, economists said.

"Disappointment about the U.S. economy and U.S. budget problems will probably come back to haunt the dollar," said UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd economist Russell Jones.

"The market is dreaming of a U.S. recovery, but its dream may have gone too far," Kakimoto said.

Pessimism about Germany and Soviet instability may also prove to be overblown.

"Before, the market looked at unification as very positive, now it is solely concerned with the negative cost," Ueda said. "But that may have gone too far."

The point about the Soviet Union is that for all the psychological weight, the economic ties are not so great as to cause that much disruption to Western economies if there is a crackdown," Feldman said.

Japan's economy is slowing but remains healthy. "Japan's relative economic performance is still looking good in terms of just about every indicator you'd care to name," Jones said.

A sharp dollar surge would also likely prompt more concerted central bank intervention, especially since a dollar rise much beyond current levels would dampen U.S. exports and thus threaten a U.S. recovery.

"Exports are critical to the U.S. recovery so the U.S. doesn't want to see the dollar go up too much," Kakimoto said.

## India's sugar exports may increase by 200,000 tonnes

NEW DELHI (R) — India, faced with surplus sugar stocks and perilously low foreign exchange reserves, may export another 200,000 tonnes of sugar in calendar 1991, a food and civil supplies ministry spokeswoman has said.

"There are surplus stocks and we can export an additional 200,000 tonnes. But no decision has been taken yet," she said. The

plan could push exports of the world's largest sugar producer to nearly 400,000 tonnes in 1991.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said it was not aware of further moves to export.

"We have not been told of any additional exports above the allocated 200,000 tonnes set (by government) for this year," S.S. Jain, secretary general of the

Indian Sugar Mills Association, said in a telephone interview.

"I am not sure you can find a market for the additional stocks... we are already selling at a loss each time," he said.

India was selling sugar at a loss because the sugar mills break-even cost was well above the \$294 a tonne sugar is currently fetching in the international markets, Jain said.

## Greek airline decides not to furlough workers

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Olympic Airways, Greece's national carrier, rescinded a decision to furlough 1,800 workers in exchange for a one-year no-strike agreement.

Newspapers said the Olympic Airways employees union promised not to call any strikes for one year. The union also said the 1,800 workers will not seek overtime payments and will work on holidays without extra pay.

The 1,800 workers were to have been furloughed April 1 for a maximum three-month period as part of Olympic's efforts to deal with an accumulated debt of nearly \$1 billion.

Olympic Airways has also struck a deal with 3,500 workers, mostly technical support staff and ground crews, for pay cuts of 12.5 per cent. About 3,000 pilots, co-pilots, flight attendants and engineers also agreed to similar salary cuts to avoid being furloughed.

Olympic Airways, with an estimated 11,000 employees, had to reduce flights by 30 per cent in mid-January to help contain its debt. The reductions were not directly related to the war in the Gulf.

## Seoul lends Moscow \$500 million

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea has signed an agreement to provide the Soviet Union with a \$500 million commercial loan as part of a \$3 billion economic assistance package.

The loan, provided by the Korea Development Bank and nine other commercial city banks, should be paid back over five years after a three-year grace period.

It carries an annual interest rate of the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), which is a median rate for international loan payments, plus 1.25 per cent.

It was the first South Korean loan provided under a \$3 billion economic assistance package that Seoul has pledged to the Soviet Union.

The Korean package includes \$1 billion in commercial loans, \$500 million for the purchase of Korean capital goods and \$1.5 billion in Export-Import Bank credit for imports of consumer goods from South Korea.

South Korean officials said the remaining loans will be provided in the next two or three years.

## EC resigned to different stock systems in single '92 market

BRUSSELS (R) — After two months of study, the European Community (EC) has conceded that the only way to get around a key single investment law is to permit vastly different systems of share trading and regulation after 1992.

A new investment services directive which Luxembourg, current holder of the revolving EC presidency, wants Community finance ministers to endorse, says member states should be free to choose their system of trading provided this does not harm another member.

"What Luxembourg is aiming for is a compromise where there is a kind of competitive coexistence within the different market models," said one EC diplomat involved in the bargaining.

The plan has upset bankers in the 12 EC states by siding with those who want to keep restrictions on stock exchange membership after 1992.

But it offers compromise between the opposing camps in other key disputes — trading outside regulated markets and reporting requirements for stock, futures, options and bond transactions.

"It is not a perfect solution," said Jean Guill, Luxembourg

chairman of the group which has been trying to bridge the gap.

It is trying to reconcile the more liberal approach of the northern European states — led by Britain — with the preference for tighter regulation in the south.

The directive would extend to securities the "single passport" which from 1993 will allow banks approved in one member state to operate throughout the bloc.

But it has been mired for months in the fighting between London and rivals over the continent for supremacy in the EC securities markets after 1992.

Finance ministers in February formed a group to examine the disputes. EC financial services commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, has urged Britain, France and Germany to be flexible.

The result is the Luxembourg plan which Guill hopes will be the basis of a deal by the end of its EC presidency on June 30.

The plan has angered bankers by suggesting member states could stop banks from joining stock exchanges or other regulated markets unless they establish a specialised subsidiary. The restrictions would be reviewed by the end of 1995.

It also says a majority of coun-

tries could accept a delicate balance between the demand of the southern countries for all trading to be concentrated on regulated markets, and the northern countries insistence on the investors' right to choose over-the-counter markets such as London's SEAQ share market.

On the issue of reporting requirements, Luxembourg has suggested that within 24 hours of a transaction in securities, future, options and some bonds a declaration be made to national regulators listing the amount, date, and hour of the transaction and the investment house.

But Gill said Luxembourg intends to exempt the Eurobond market from the plan and to allow for aggregated reporting of some other bond transactions because they are traded within a small circle of professional firms.

This follows a complaint from the London-based Association of International Bond Dealers that the reporting requirements for bonds in earlier drafts of the law were too onerous.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 8, 1991			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	677.0	681.0	
Pound Sterling	1191.8	1199.0	
Deutschmark	400.2	402.6	
Swiss franc	474.1	476.9	
French franc	118.3	119.0	
Japanese yen (for 100)	494.0	497.0	
Dutch guilder	355.4	357.5	
Swedish crown	111.0	111.7	
Italian lira (for 100)	53.9	54.2	
Belgian franc (for 10)	194.7	195.9	

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7620/30	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1542/47	Canadian dollar	
	1.6913/20	Deutschmarks	
	1.9035/45	Dutch guilders	
	1.4285/92	Swiss francs	
	34.795/3	Belgian francs	
	5.7200/50	French francs	
	12531/254	Italian lire	
	136.70/80	Japanese yen	
	6.0875/25	Swedish crowns	
	6.5770/20	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4830/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	358.70/358.20	U.S. dollars	

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420  
Durald Laham — Madlin Tabar in  
**Kafroon**  
Show: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144  
**MICKEY ROURKE...IN A PRAYER FOR THE DYING**  
12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571  
**BAT MAN**  
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238  
**FUNNY FAMILY**  
Show: 12:30, 3:15, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

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\* CAT 950 Excavator (2000 hours use only)  
\* Poclain 75p Excavator (1300 hours use only)  
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## Albanian Communists win two-thirds majority

TIRANA (AP) — Albania's long-ruling Communists have captured a crucial two-thirds majority in parliament, gaining six more seats in run-off elections, preliminary results showed Monday.

Communist Premier Fatos Nano, forced into a second round by an unknown electrical engineer, was one of the six victorious Communists, the results indicated.

But the opposition Democratic Party also said it was satisfied with the results of Sunday's second round of multiparty elections, the first in more than four decades of hard-line Communist rule.

With counting still going on in some districts, unofficial results released by the Democrats showed them winning or leading in 10 races.

Two more seats were won by a small party representing ethnic Greeks, which would give it a total of five.

The trends shown in the Democrats' tabulation were confirmed by a statistician with the official Election Commission, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Communists won 162 seats in the first round on March 31 and needed a total of 167 to achieve a two-thirds majority in

the 250-seat People's Assembly. Winning six seats would give them a total of 168.

A two-thirds majority would give the Communists the power to pass key legislation changing the Albanian constitution without needing the votes of any other party.

Parliament also must draft legislation to try to pull the country out of economic despair. Tens of thousands of people have fled the country in recent months for a better life abroad.

A gain of 10 seats for the chief opposition party, the Democrats, would give them 75, not enough to ensure that the Communists must consult them.

The Communists have called for close cooperation with the opposition when parliament meets on April 15, saying that is the only way to avoid civil war in this polarised nation.

But the Democrats have rejected those overtures and spokesman Genc Pollo repeated that stance Monday.

"No coalition with the Communist Party is foreseen," he said. "We will try to make parliament a democratic place by playing an opposition role."

In rejecting any participation in the government, the Democratic party hoped that a combination of

crushing economic problems and expected fighting within the Communist Party between reformers and conservatives will force new elections in as little as six months.

Democrats defeated President Ramiz Alia, the Communist Party leader, and other top officials on March 31 as they took most of the urban districts in the parliamentary ballot.

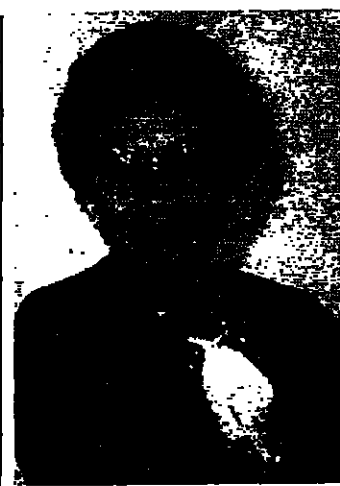
But the Communists, whose official name is the Party of Labour, won the elections on the strength of their support in the countryside.

The election of Nano in Tirana district 213 by a margin of about 54-46 per cent over Democrat Sokrat Nesturi was a blow to the Democrats, but Pollo said the party nevertheless was satisfied with Sunday's second round.

Six of the 10 seats it apparently won were in the countryside, he said.

"The second-round results show that we can also win in the countryside," Pollo said.

The polarisation between city and country has led to fears that Albania will be gripped by violence in coming months. Four people died in post-election violence last week in the city of Shkoder.



Corazon Aquino

## Filipino military in crisis after new appointment

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The military's third-ranking general resigned Monday, angrily accusing President Corazon Aquino of favouritism in her selection of a new military chief.

The issue of military promotion is sensitive in the Philippines, where favouritism under the late President Ferdinand Marcos provoked the 1986 mutiny that propelled Mrs. Aquino to power.

Mrs. Aquino Saturday named army commander Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadía, 53, to replace retiring Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon as armed forces chief of staff. The appointment is subject to congressional approval.

Maj. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, deputy chief of staff and a candidate for the position, at a news conference Monday accused Mrs. Aquino of playing politics with seniority in appointing Abadía.

"With all candor and honesty, I frankly say to you I cannot believe in the wisdom of your judgment, for it is unfair and unjust," Aguirre said in an open letter to Mrs. Aquino.

Abadía had been the most junior of five leading candidates, including Vice Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores, who holds the second-ranking post in the military and had been considered the front-runner. Aguirre said Flores was the most qualified officer based on his experience and grade.

Promotion favouritism was cited as a reason for the seven armed attempts by military dissidents to oust Mrs. Aquino.

The issue also was raised last year when Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno was appointed chief of the Philippine Constabulary, later renamed the National Police. Nazareno was believed close to Mrs. Aquino's influential brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco.

Aguirre said he would not take part in any coup attempt, but added: "A leadership that is incapable of making a just and proper decision over a simple matter such as an appointment cannot be expected to make correct decisions about the complex affairs of state."

Mrs. Aquino said in a statement later that she considered Abadía the best qualified officer and that seniority was not her only criterion, according to press secretary Tomas Gomez.

Mrs. Aquino said the decision was her "constitutional prerogative," as commander-in-chief. Aguirre refused to identify those who he thought influenced the Abadía appointment. But reporters said presidential executive secretary Oscar Orbes told them in January that Abadía had been selected.

Abadía, a respected officer, denied seeking political support for his promotion. Biazon acknowledged that right-wing military rebels might try to exploit discontent over the appointment to launch another coup attempt.

## LDP leader quits after Tokyo defeat

TOKYO (R) — The forceful head of Japan's ruling party resigned Monday to take the blame for his party's bitter election defeat at the hands of the incumbent Tokyo governor whom he had tried to remove.

"The current confusion within the party is all my fault," Ichiro Ozawa, secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said in a brief statement.

"Japan is at an important crossroads with pending issues with the United States and the Soviet Union. Our party must stay united."

Party sources said Ozawa would be replaced by Keizo Obuchi, a right-hand man to former Premier Noboru Takeshita and his chief cabinet secretary during 1987-1989.

Ozawa's resignation came as a blow to Premier Toshiki Kaifu, who had formed a leadership tandem with him since taking office in August 1989. Kaifu's term in office ends in October.

Although Kaifu is said to have resented some of Ozawa's forceful manoeuvres, Ozawa is credited with achieving party consensus for many of the administration's key policy decisions over the Gulf war, trade issues and the strategy and platform for the LDP victory in February 1990 elections.

The powerful post of LDP secretary-general carries with it control of the party coffers, power to sway key policy decisions and a leading role in any election. Incumbent Tokyo Governor Shunichi Suzuki, a sprightly 60-year-old, won a fourth term Sunday.

Ozawa had earlier run into criticism for the manner in which he solicited billions of yen to help pay for the February 1990 general election. He also often left Kaifu out of key policy decisions, such as that to modify a controversial sales tax.

Kaifu and other party barons tried to reject his resignation, arguing that, elsewhere in Sunday's local elections, the LDP made considerable gains at the expense of its closest rival, the Socialists.

In terms of overall seats contested in 44 of the country's 47 prefectural assemblies, the LDP won 1,543, up sharply from 1,382 four years ago. The Socialists losing popularity over their rigid stance in foreign and tax policies, managed only 345 seats, down from 443.

## Croatian minister's trial postponed after protests

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — Rock-throwing protesters Monday disrupted the trial of Croatia's defence minister, forcing a military judge to indefinitely postpone the hearing.

The minister, Martin Speglj, and seven others are accused of plotting to overthrow Yugoslavia's Communist-dominated army. If found guilty by the military court, they could receive life in prison.

Speglj is being tried in absentia. The trial in the Croatian capital of Zagreb was likely to further strain relations between the federal army, which has supported continued central control, and the independence-minded western republic.

Several Croatian political parties appealed to their supporters over the weekend to protest the trial.

About 2,000 protesters responded, gathering in front of the court building before the trial began Monday morning.

Demonstrators chanting "freedom" and waving Croatian flags pushed aside riot police stationed about 40 metres (130 feet) from the court building and stoned the

building as the trial got underway. They broke several windows, but did not get inside.

The presiding judge, Capt. Mile Vignjevic, declared the proceedings "indefinitely adjourned."

Croatia has refused to hand Speglj over to military judicial authorities, who have accused him of buying thousands of weapons in preparation for an uprising against the Communist-dominated army.

His seven co-defendants have been held in a military stockade since February. The judge turned down a request by attorneys that they be released until the trial resumes.

Last January, the army broadcast a secretly filmed TV documentary purporting to show Speglj conspiring to illegally import about 10,000 Kalashnikov automatic rifles from Hungary and to organise resistance to a potential army takeover.

Speglj denied the film's authenticity. He said Croatia had legally purchased the guns to equip its police force after the military impounded almost a quarter of a million weapons from the state.

Another policeman went up the stairs and persuaded the man to give up. The man said he was looking for Bolger, whose hard-line economic policies have sparked street demonstrations and effigy-burning sessions in recent weeks.

Parliamentary security has improved in recent years but is still lax by overseas standards. The public has reasonably easy access to its politicians, most of whom are listed in the telephone book.

Bolger later told a news conference he would call for a review of security in parliament buildings but said he did not regard the incident as an ominous sign of anger felt by New Zealanders over the government's tough economic policies.

He added that this was a mixed blessing for the party because the drivers did not understand the local language.

"Congress campaigners have made penetration deep into the villages ... with loudspeakers and jeeps brought in from across the border," said local schoolteacher Shaligram Dahal.

Last week the interim government, a fractious coalition of ex-dissidents headed by the Nepali

## Seoul urges N. Korea to resume talks

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea Monday urged longtime rival North Korea to resume premiers' talks on reducing tensions, but announced it was moving forward with efforts to gain solo United Nations membership.

The foreign minister said South Korea had notified all U.N. members that it would apply for membership this summer, and urged North Korea to request a separate membership.

The issue has been a major obstacle in past premiers' talks. North Korea has said separate memberships for the two Korean states in the United Nations would perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula.

On Monday, Rodong Shinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers (Communist) Party, said the South "must immediately discard the drive for unilateral U.N. membership from a national stand and accept our reunification-oriented proposal to join the U.N. as one member."

The paper denounced the South's "campaign for unilateral U.N. membership as an anti-national crime intended to add to the misfortunes and sufferings of the fellow countrymen and endanger the future of the nation," said the North's Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

South Korean Premier Ro Jai-Bong sent a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Yon Hyong Mook, urging a meeting on May 22-25 in North Korea's capital of Pyongyang to resume a fourth round of talks cancelled in February.

There was no immediate reply. "The talks carry the mission and responsibility to improve North-South relations on a full scale, as a vehicle to open a new era of coexistence and coprosperity toward reconciliation, cooperation and unification," said Ro's message, according to aides.

Since the first historic talks "were held last September, the two nations have staged music and sports exchanges, formed a joint table tennis team and agreed to a joint soccer team."

Later this month, 25 South Koreans will cross the sealed, heavily armed border to attend an international parliamentarians meeting in the North, one of the few civilian crossings allowed by both sides since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

South Korea and Communist North Korea were divided at the end of World War II and fought each other in the 1950-53 Korean War. No peace treaty ever has been signed. The border remains one of the most heavily fortified in the world.

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Last week the interim government, a fractious coalition of ex-dissidents headed by the Nepali

complained that some of the foreign donors who keep Nepal's economy afloat might now give aid for monitoring the election to fronts for political parties.

Diplomats dismissed the charges, saying that money was clearly designated. "It cannot be unaccountable money," said one.

Denmark, Finland, the United States, Japan, Canada, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands have offered aid for monitoring and organising the election.

However, the diplomats did express suspicions that money from foreign governments might reach parties by the back door.

The multi-party polls will be the first since King Birendra's father, King Mahendra, ended a 21-month experiment with democracy in 1960, jailing leaders of the Nepali Congress Party who had won a landslide victory.

Now dissenters within the Nepali Congress complain the party is getting too much help from politicians in India.

"It is both disgusting and dis-

## COLUMN

### Animals seized in raid on Bangkok market

BANGKOK (AP) — Authorities seized wild cats, baby gibbons and other species in a raid on Bangkok's weekend market, a major site for sales of endangered wildlife, officials said. The action came after the World Wide Fund For Nature last week identified Thailand as "probably the worst country in the world for the illegal trade in endangered wildlife."

Interim Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun visited the market at northern Bangkok's Chatuchak Park Saturday and pledged to eradicate the trade in wildlife in line with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Thailand is a member of the convention, which took effect in 1975, but has not enforced it. Forestry officials and police seized five baby gibbons, six lorises, eight wild cats, and over 200 protected birds in the Sunday raid on a shop supplying animals for sale at Chatuchak, said Boonlert Angsriyinda of the Forestry Department's Wildlife Conservation Division.

The birds included mynas, red-billed blue pigeons and Indian pied hornbills, he said. The animals were in poor condition after having been kept for a long time in a hot, poorly ventilated warehouse. The gibbons had been drugged to make them docile, he said. "Most of the animals were very weak and infected with worms and disease," Boonlert said. One of the cats and some of the birds died after their rescue because of the conditions in which they were kept, he said.

South Korean Premier Ro Jai-Bong sent a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Yon Hyong Mook, urging a meeting on May 22-25 in North Korea's capital of Pyongyang to resume a fourth round of talks cancelled in February.

There was no immediate reply. "The talks carry the mission and responsibility to improve North-South relations on a full scale, as a vehicle to open a new era of coexistence and coprosperity toward reconciliation, cooperation and unification," said Ro's message, according to aides.

Since the first historic talks "were held last September, the two nations have staged music and sports exchanges, formed a joint table tennis team and agreed to a joint soccer team."

Later this month, 25 South Koreans will cross the sealed, heavily armed border to attend an international parliamentarians meeting in the North, one of the few civilian crossings allowed by both sides since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

South Korea and Communist North Korea were divided at the end of World War II and fought each other in the 1950-53 Korean War. No peace treaty ever has been signed. The border remains one of the most heavily fortified in the world.

Another policeman went up the stairs and persuaded the man to give up. The man said he was looking for Bolger, whose hard-line economic policies have sparked street demonstrations and effigy-burning sessions in recent weeks.

Parliamentary security has improved in recent years but is still lax by overseas standards. The public has reasonably easy access to its politicians, most of whom are listed in the telephone book.

Bolger later told a news conference he would call for a review of security in parliament buildings but said he did not regard the incident as an ominous sign of anger felt by New Zealanders over the government's tough economic policies.

He added that this was a mixed blessing for the party because the drivers did not understand the local language.

"Congress campaigners have made penetration deep into the villages ... with loudspeakers and jeeps brought in from across the border," said local schoolteacher Shaligram Dahal.

Last week the interim government, a fractious coalition of ex-dissidents headed by the Nepali

complained that some of the foreign donors who keep Nepal's economy afloat might now give aid for monitoring the election to fronts for political parties.

Diplomats dismissed the charges, saying that money was clearly designated. "It cannot be unaccountable money," said one.

Denmark, Finland, the United States, Japan, Canada, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands have offered aid for monitoring and organising the election.

However, the diplomats did express suspicions that money from foreign governments might reach parties by the back door.

The multi-party polls will be the first since King Birendra's father, King Mahendra, ended a 21-month experiment with democracy in 1960, jailing leaders of the Nepali Congress Party who had won a landslide victory.

Now dissenters within the Nepali Congress complain the party is getting too much help from politicians in India.

"It is both disgusting and dis-

## China appoints new vice premiers

PEKING (R) — China's parliament Monday appointed Shanghai's reformist mayor and the chief central planner to vice premiership posts, maintaining a balance in the top levels of government.

The parliament elected both men by overwhelming margins, witnesses said.

Shanghai Mayor Zhu Rongji, 62, regarded as a pragmatic economic reformer by foreign analysts and Chinese sources, will leave China's largest city to take his new job.

Zhu won the praise of Shanghai people when he ended anti-government protests there in 1989 without resorting to the

force that killed hundreds, possibly thousands, in Peking.

The other new vice premier, Zou Jiahua, 64, is the minister in charge of the State Planning Commission, the body that directs China's socialist economy.

Zou, who will keep the planning post in addition to the vice premiership, is considered by diplomats and analysts to be much more cautious on economic reform.

"It's a balancing act again," a Western diplomat said.

The National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, also elevated Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, 63, to

state councillor, a senior cabinet post.

Chinese and diplomatic sources said Qian, who will remain foreign minister, received the promotion as a reward for salvaging China's foreign policy after the harsh and bloody crackdown on dissent in June 1989.

The parliamentarians, who used electronic counting devices on their desks to register their votes, elected Zou as vice premier by a 2,582 to 38 margin with 48 abstaining and five not voting.

Sixty-two deputies opposed Zou, the Shanghai mayor, while 2,547 voted for him, 56 abstained and eight did not vote.

## Indonesian editor gets 5-year prison term for blasphemy

JAKARTA (R) — The editor of what used to be the best selling weekly tabloid in predominantly Muslim Indonesia was jailed Monday for five years for blasphemy against Islam.

Arswendo Atmowiloto, 42, was charged after publishing an opinion poll in October rating pop singers, politicians and even himself as more popular than the Prophet Muhammad.

Under Indonesia's criminal code, five years is the maximum punishment for blasphemy.

"The defendant has been found guilty of intentionally disgracing, and in public, one of the religions of Indonesia... therefore he should be sentenced to five years imprisonment," Chief Judge Sarwono told the heavily guarded court.

Arswendo, a Roman Catholic, posed smiling for photographers on his way into court. He looked calm when sentenced.

Over 100 people, including plainclothes police, crowded into the cramped Jakarta district courtroom. Everyone had to undergo security checks before being admitted.

Two truckloads of police waited outside but there were no reports of any incidents.

The racy tabloid monitor was closed by the Information Minis-

try in October after Muslims demonstrated violently across the country following the poll.

The poll ranked the Prophet 11th in popularity behind the likes of President Suharto and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Jesus Christ did not register in the poll.

The ministry said it closed the newspaper because the poll threatened public order and prompted religious strife in Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population.

"Things that have been done by the defendant have upset Muslims. They can, directly or indirectly, disrupt the nation's unity, stability and resilience," the judge said.

The judge said that because Arswendo had apologised he was ordered to pay only 2,500 rupiah (\$1.50) in costs, compared to the 10 million rupiah (\$5,200) fine demanded by the prosecution.

Although about 90 per cent of Indonesia's population is officially Muslim, the country allows religious freedom and the government has been quick to stamp out signs of Islamic extremism.

But political analysts say government leaders are increasingly bending towards the Muslim majority in the run-up to elections next year.

## Kennedy nephew gives blood, hair samples to police

NEW YORK (R) — William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of Senator Edward Kennedy and leading suspect in an alleged rape of a woman at the Kennedy's Florida estate, has given samples of his blood and hair to Palm Beach police, the New York Times reported Monday.

The newspaper said Smith, a 30-year-old medical student, agreed to comply with the request for samples Sunday morning in Washington but declined to be questioned by police.

In rape investigations, police frequently compare a suspect's blood and hair specimens to evidence such as sperm recovered from victims.

Last week police said a 29-year-old woman had accused Smith of raping her on the grounds of the Kennedy's Palm Beach estate in the early hours of March 30.

The woman was examined at a hospital about 10 hours after the alleged rape.

Senator Kennedy, his son Patrick and Smith were at the ocean-side estate on the night of the alleged rape. The three have denied being involved in any sexual assault.

Paul Donovan, Senator Ken-

edy's press secretary, said the senator was questioned at his home in Washington Sunday and was cooperating with the investigation.

The Times reported that several items had been stolen from the Kennedy estate the night of the alleged rape.

The newspaper said several people familiar with the Kennedy version of events that night said an antique urn and family pictures were stolen by the alleged rape victim.

The Times said police were aware of the theft reports and that the urn was handed over to the police by Anne Mercer, a friend of the woman who filed the rape charge.

According to police reports, the alleged rape victim had gone from a local night spot, where she met the Kennedys and Smith, to the Kennedy estate for cocktails.

Michele Cassone, 27, who went to the compound with the group, told reporters at the news conference in Palm Beach Saturday she had seen a naked woman emerging from the surf near the residence but she did not appear to fit the description of the alleged victim.

## Manila identifies 100 Marcos Swiss bank accounts

MANILA (AP) — The government has identified about 100 secret Swiss bank accounts of the late President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda, the chief state lawyer said Monday.

Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said information on the accounts will be used to build a criminal case against Mrs. Marcos as part of efforts to recover at least \$350 million in deposits her late husband allegedly made in Swiss banks.

Chavez refused to identify the banks or say whether the \$350 million was part of the 100 accounts.

The government says Marcos embezzled up to \$10 billion from the national treasury during his 20-year rule.

He was toppled in a popular revolt in 1986 and fled into exile in Hawaii, where he died in September 1989.

Chavez said he will travel to Switzerland on April 18 to retrieve documents from the Swiss banks.

He said the papers "will reveal the Marcos' fraudulent deals, including details of fund transfers and the names of foundations through which the money was coursed."

Chavez said he will seek clarification from the Swiss Supreme Court on its ruling on the Philippine government claims — specifically the deadline for filing a suit against Mrs. Marcos to pave the way for recovering the money.

The Swiss court ruled last December that the government should file a case within a year of its ruling, and said a conviction was necessary before it could recover the funds.

Chavez has argued the deadline should be next March, since the Philippine government was formally notified of the ruling only last month.

He also said he will question a condition set by the Swiss court limiting government access to those bank documents that will be used directly in filing a case against Mrs. Marcos.

In related news, Vice President Salvador Laurel said the late president told him that he would be willing to give the bulk of his fortune to the Filipino people if the Aquino government would allow him to return and die in the Philippines. But Mrs. Aquino refused, Laurel said at a luncheon.

Laurel also indicated the opposition would be willing to accept campaign contributions from the former first lady.

KATHMANDU (R) — The Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, long fearful of foreign interference, urged politicians Monday not to let themselves be influenced by outsiders in the run-up to the first Western-style polls in three decades.

"Parties should launch their election campaigns in a manner that does not undermine national independence, integrity and sovereignty," said the election commission, outlining a code of conduct for the May 12 general election.

The polls have been promised for a year, since King Birendra bowed to mass protest and agreed to surrender absolute powers in favour of a British-style constitutional monarchy.

But many in Nepal, which battled for centuries to preserve its independence from neighbouring China and India and from Western colonial powers, fear that political parties could prove easy prey to foreign influence.</